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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 124
Available from Wednesday,
February 10, 2010

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the right choice

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NEW SAINSBURY'S TO USE LOCAL SUPPLIERS

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TASTY: Julie Maddocks joins the Kent chef tour and visits the best of our local food producers

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Picture: Barry Crayford



RIDING HIGH WITH RNLI

Yourswale reporter Jill Hurst was invited aboard the George and Ivy Swanson by RNLI Sheerness. Turn to page four to read her exclusive interview with the crew and find out about her experience on board the state of the art £2 million, 47-foot all-weather lifeboat.

BY JILL HURST

SAINSBURY'S has won its fight to open a supermarket in Faversham and promised to use local suppliers when it opens the store next year.

Architects for the firm were forced to make eleventh-hour changes to the plan to develop land at Bysingwood Road after learning council officials were set to reject the scheme because of design concerns.

However, council members voted an overwhelming 14 to two in its favour at a planning meeting on February 4 after agreeing the store would favour local suppliers.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said: "We are delighted with the council's decision to approve our application for a new Sainsbury's at Bysing Wood Road in Faversham.

"Councillors recognised that a new food store would deliver greater choice and new jobs locally and help to retain consumers in Faversham who are currently leaving to shop elsewhere.

"We will discuss the conditions with the council, but we can confirm we are proposing to incorporate high quality, indigenous landscaping within the scheme.

"We also already have a plan to source many of our products from within the region and we are also keen to minimise the impact of construction works such as preventing mud on roads.

"Sainsbury's would like to thank everyone who has shown their support for the proposals since we first launched the scheme last year, and we are looking forward to opening our new store in Faversham next year."

The new store is now expected to create 300

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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1 NHS workers talk about the importance of giving blood at a Chatham Dockyard drop-in session. **Search 'Blood'**



2 Firefighters tackle a huge blaze at a furniture store in Lyminge. **Search 'Lyminge'**



3 Kent Police Chief Constable Michael Fuller talks about his decision to leave the Force. **Search 'Fuller'**

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PLANNING DELAY: The Beck family want to move onto land opposite Bobbing crematorium

Family upset by racist abuse on council website

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

A YOUNG gypsy family say they were left disappointed and hurt after letters containing racist abuse were placed on Swale council's planning website.

After being contacted by Yoursware, council officials removed the letters but the family now fear they will never receive permission to move onto land they purchased opposite Bobbing crematorium.

Robert Beck and his wife Mary had hoped to be granted permission at a planning meeting last Thursday.

However despite three council meetings, one site visit and a recommendation by planners to pass the application, officers ordered yet another delay, leaving the family to wait until March 4 to hear if they have a home.

Mrs Beck, together with gypsy rights campaigner Mick Harrington, spoke exclusively to Yoursware after the meeting.

Mr Harrington said: "Tonight saw prejudice placed over planning matters.

"This young family have done everything by the book, but Swale council has done everything to thwart them and nothing to help.

"If the family had moved onto the land they would have been given

temporary planning permission by now, but they wanted to do things properly and have been punished for doing so.

"In my view, by leaving those letters on the website Swale council has incited racism towards gypsies from the community.

"If this was any other ethnic minority they would not get away with it. They should hang their heads in shame."

Mrs Beck said: "Yes, this is the way we have chosen to live, but we work hard and pay our way.

"My children go to school and my husband and I are law-abiding citizens.

"We wanted to do things properly but through this process people have called my children 'gypsy scum' and locals have screamed 'put a wall round them'. Is this normal, honest behaviour?"

Mr Harrington said it was unlikely the situation would get better in the short term because he believed Swale council would not introduce permanent sites until pressured to do so in 2011 when new legislation comes into force.

A Swale council official said: "Any objection letters with racist content which had been posted on the planning website have been removed. However they will remain on public file.

"The motion for refusal was made on the grounds of the impact of the local countryside gap. The planning committee will consider the application again on March 4."

Local suppliers for Sainsbury's

FROM FRONT PAGE

new jobs and bring an additional £24 million into the historic town centre by attracting new customers who currently travel to Sainsbury's stores further afield.

It also hopes to entice villagers into the town.

The meeting wasn't all plain sailing as objectors complained a third supermarket would jeopardise the future of the vibrant high street and squeeze independent retailers.

Cllr Bryan Mulherne bemoaned: "Tesco in Faversham recently introduced a shoe heaters to compete with Morrison's who do not offer that service. Obviously this has an adverse affect on the town."

However, Labour parliamentary candidate Angela Harrison dismissed suggestions the town centre would be adversely affected and said people were free to make their own choices.

She said: "It's up to the local community to support local traders. If they want to support them then use their services.

"I refuse to use Tesco shoe heaters on the Isle of Sheppey and I use the one in Sheerness town centre.

"This is my choice, but if some people want to do everything at a super-market then that's up to them."

Rail disruption after suicide bridge threat

RAIL services were severely disrupted in Faversham and Sittingbourne after reports that a distressed man was threatening to throw himself on the line on Friday, last week.

Trains were halted and a negotiator from Kent Police eventually talked the man down from a railway bridge in Rainham.

The incident caused severe disruption for commuters, with 155 trains delayed, cancelled or diverted.

Network Rail has teamed up with the Samaritans to try to reduce the number of railway suicides. Visit www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk to find out more.

M20 car burned out

FIREFIGHTERS from Faversham spent an hour tackling a car fire on the M20 motorway.

The vehicle was engulfed in flames by the time the crew arrived at the scene, between junctions six and seven of the coastbound carriageway on Saturday, just after 7pm.

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Shoe identifies twin as station attacker

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

A BLACK training shoe saved a schoolboy from being convicted of a vicious attack committed by his twin brother.

The teenager had accompanied his 15-year-old brother and a mutual friend to Sittingbourne station on July 27, last year, where they launched a brutal attack on another schoolboy who was waiting to board a train.

After being punched in the face, the victim was rugby tackled to the floor and repeatedly kicked and punched by one of the twins.

The innocent twin repeatedly maintained he had nothing to do with the assault, claiming he only got involved to try to stop the violence. However, witnesses claimed he had kicked the victim in the face as he lay on the ground.

Giving evidence by video link, the 16-year-old victim said: "I was with three friends waiting for the train to go to the cinema. I'd just got my ticket and was standing on the platform when one of the boys came up and punched me full in the face.

"We ended up on the floor and there were punches everywhere. I remember one punch landed on my right eye. It blinded me and I couldn't open it and I was in pain. Then I got a kick in the face which landed on my nose. Just before the kick I saw a dark coloured shoe coming towards me. It was a like a big black thing."

The attack took place on a busy station plat-



VIOLENT STRUGGLE: Horrified families looked on as the attack unfolded at Sittingbourne railway station

form at 4pm and was witnessed by dozens shocked parents with children. The court heard how at one point the boys were brawling on the edge of the busy platform while a train approached the station.

The innocent boy was found not guilty after the court was shown video evidence that showed he was wearing white trainers and played no part in kicking the victim. Witnesses said they found it virtually impossible to distinguish the two brothers.

The two guilty boys, who both attend one of the top schools in the area, were convicted of

the assault, fined £150 and ordered to attend and youth offending programme.

Magistrate Tony Broadick said: "Neither of you comes out of this without any credit.

"Imagine how people with young families felt who witnessed this. You are fortunate that you have supportive families and good futures ahead of you - this is unusual for people who appear in this court.

"If you do not comply with what has been asked you will be brought back to this court and given a very different sentence."

Extremists to fight for first far right MP

TWO far-right political parties will run for office in Sittingbourne and Sheppey at this year's general election.

Both the National Front (NF) and the British National Party (BNP) confirmed they will fight for the marginal parliamentary seat, with the BNP eyeing it as the home of its first British MP.

The BNP's intention to stand at the general election was revealed by Yoursware in November, last year, when the party admitted the region was a key target.

Labour and Conservative party members agreed the best way to respond to the challenge was by focusing on policies and principles.

Labour group leader Cllr Roger Truelove said: "It was inevitable the BNP would want to stand.

"It's up to us to win over the voters and demonstrate how many of the BNP's right-wing slogans are simply wrong."

Opportunity

Conservative parliamentary candidate Gordon Henderson said: "I welcome the opportunity to show I am the best person to represent the community and reflect the issues that matter most."

BNP spokesman Graeme Sergeant said: "We are pleased to announce we will be fighting for the Sittingbourne and Sheppey seat and we will be out visiting voters soon.

"We have had a unit at Sittingbourne for two years and definitely expect to see our first MP in Kent."

Labour's Derek Wyatt narrowly won the constituency vote at the last election by just 79 votes.

Mr Wyatt is standing down as an MP at the next general election.

Armed robbery plea

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a petrol station near Faversham was the target of an armed robbery.



A man, pictured left, entered the BP station on the coastbound carriageway of the Thanet Way at about 1.25am on Monday and threatened the cashier with a heavy object before taking money from the till and fleeing. Contact Sittingbourne police on 01795 491161 if you can identify him.

Arrests after assault

FIVE men were arrested after a serious assault in Faversham.

The two male victims were walking in Stonebridge Way leading to Monks Close when they were attacked just after midnight on Saturday. One needed hospital treatment for facial injuries.

All five men were bailed and are due to report back to police on March 10. Anyone with information should contact Sittingbourne police on 01795 419343.

Cab space meeting

TAXI drivers will meet with Swale council on Monday to discuss the option of additional rank space in the borough.

Officials will propose the creation of spaces at locations including The Street in Iwade, Milton High Street and Newington.

Child sex predator jailed after decade of horrific abuse

A PREDATORY paedophile who committed the "grossest and foulest breach of trust" was taken off the streets of Swale after a judge jailed him indefinitely.

Joseph Richard Davey was convicted on 17 counts of sexual abuse including forcing a child to engage in sexual activity, rape and child pornography charges spanning more than a decade.

Davey, from Sheerness, groomed and tormented his young victims for over ten years, saying they would go to prison should they tell anyone about his despicable crimes.

Sentencing the 61-year-old pervert, Judge Andrew Patience said: "I had not realised the sheer horror of what you had done to each of the children.

"You treated each from a very young age in a way that was cruel, degrading, humiliating and deeply, deeply damaging.

"It was the grossest and foulest breach of trust. You present a significant risk of reoffending. You are vile and depraved."

Davey who was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, will be locked up for at least 16 years.

If released, he will have to sign the sex offenders register for life and will never be allowed to work with children.

Lead investigator PC Nicki Hunt said despite his guilt, Davey had shown no remorse for his wickedness: "He was a scheming and predatory child abuser who committed unimagin-

able abuse over a long period of time," she said.

PC Hunt went on to praise the two victims for their courage: "Both were phenomenal. The success of this investigation would not have been possible without the sheer bravery they have shown."



SICK: Joseph Davey

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Queen's telegram... and tea with mayor

A CENTENERION from Sittingbourne was awarded with her telegram from the Queen by the Mayor and Mayoress of Swale.

Mrs Lydia Eaton of Court Care Home, Newington celebrated reaching 100 years of age on Monday February 1.

During the afternoon staff organised a tea party for her when Councillor Adrian Crowther presented her with a civic gift.

Don't 'Miss' out on selection chance

MISS Sheppey selections will start for the 2010 competition on Saturday, February 27 at Bonds Social Club in New Road, Sheerness.

Categories include the junior selection for girls aged 9 to 14 and the senior selection for youngsters aged 15 to 25.

All entrants must be available throughout the summer and will be required to take part in the Island carnival on August 21. Entries must be received by Friday, February 26.

For an entry form contact Joan or Lee on 01795 667927.

Women's Institute celebrates 90th year

A BRANCH of the east Kent Federation of the Women's Institute celebrated its 90th birthday last week.

Newington WI held an evening of celebrations at the village hall near Sittingbourne.

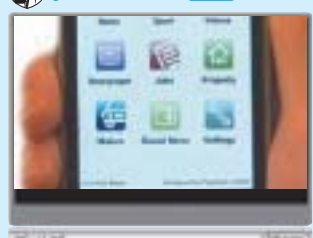
Dignitaries including The Mayor, Adrian Crother and Mayoress Pamela Berry of Swale attended the event at the invite of group chairman Ms Sue Malan.

For more information on the WI telephone 01227 464106.

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Brave lifeboat crew will never tire of saving lives

Jill Hurst heads out to sea on a training day with the team of RNLI Sheerness

EXCLUSIVE

SHEERNESS Lifeboat station has long been an unsung jewel in the Sheppey crown.

Set deep within Sheerness Docks the strict visiting criteria laid down by the port authority has led to the brave efforts of this volunteer crew often going unnoticed so when I was invited to the station I eagerly accepted.

RNLI Sheerness is manned by one full-time coxswain and 20 volunteers made up of paramedics, photographers, heating engineers and students.

When I arrived at the station I could hear male banter coming from the mess on the first floor. I climbed the stairs with more than a little trepidation. I shouldn't have worried. The welcome was warm and genuine.

After a cup of tea and a quick yarn the crew sort me out an all weather kit and life jacket. Paramedic Jason senses my discomfort as I struggle to lift my leg over the station step: "You get used to it" he says. I sense this isn't the only thing they have had to get used to.

Two lifeboats run from the station. The Trent class offshore lifeboat has an operational range of 250 nautical miles. The second, a 16-foot dinghy, gives a fast response for inshore services.

Life and death

On board the all-weather lifeboat you get a sense of what it's like in a real emergency. Everyone knows their place. They have to. It's the difference between life and death.

As the dinghy crew speed along beside us they throw a 14-stone dummy overboard. Immediately the crew spring into action and the rescue operation starts. It's an impressive sight.

As I cling for dear life, the crew darts around the deck paying attention to every minute detail including the angle at which the dummy is retrieved for fear of upsetting essential blood gasses.

The sea is calm and the weather conditions perfect. I can't imagine how they do this during raging storms.

Below deck a state-of-the-art navigation and radio system is constantly maintained. It's surrounded by seats for the entire crew.

This is where they strap themselves in during gale-force ten conditions – water-tight doors shut, with the knowledge the ship will right itself in seconds should it tip over. It's not for the faint-hearted.

The lower deck is for casualties, sadly I'm



Pictures: RNLI/BARRY CRAWFORD

LIFESAVERS: The volunteer crew of RNLI Sheerness are trained to rescue seafarers in all kinds of weather

told, not all alive. Every inch of space has been utilised to squeeze in up to 20 people.

While on board the crew tell me how Coxswain Robin Castle runs a tight ship. It's clear to see. From the meticulously maintained engines to the relentless drills, this is his passion.

"It gets in your blood," he says. "You never tire of the satisfaction of knowing you've saved a life."

With the drill over, youngest member Arthur Ormesher, 17, smiles at me as he whizzes past

in the dinghy with the only female member, Nicky Wood, at the helm.

Now the serious business is over it's back to the mess and it doesn't take long for the banter to return. Nicki quips of her male comrades: "They are all ladies really," before adding, "They are a good bunch. Probably the best."

A sentiment I for one won't argue with.

• To support RNLI Sheerness or volunteer contact Jenny Green at southeast@rnli.org.uk or telephone 01825 761466.

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BRANCHING OUT: The Green Team is looking for new members to learn conservation skills

Call for jobless recruits to join the Green Team

AN ENVIRONMENTAL charity is offering ten conservation apprenticeships to long-term unemployed young people living in Swale.

The Green Team is a practical training programme run by Groundwork Kent & Medway and targets 18 to 24 year olds who have been on the dole for at least nine months.

The scheme has run throughout Kent for many years but this is the first time youngsters in the borough have been given the chance to apply. The announcement comes as unemployment in the borough reached an all time high for ten years at just below four per cent.

Green Team supervisor Chris Hoddinott said the programme was targeted at people who had left school with little or no formal education or employable skills.

He added: "We will be taking seventy young people off the dole over the next eighteen months and at least ten of these places will be dedicated to Swale".

The apprentices will work for 25 hours a week on a six-month contract during which time they will be taught conservation skills as well as receiving training in pathways, carpentry and building.

■ BY JILL HURST

"Our goal is to fill the gap on their employment and skills history and make them employable," said Chris. "As well as practical skills we will also work on their self confidence, interview technique and offer help creating professional resumes."

He says the charity hopes to work with agencies and community organisation in the region to identify worthy projects.

"One of our projects will be building a pond dipping platform at the church marshes in Sittingbourne. This will involve creating a raised decking area within a pond."

The 33 year old believes if anyone should know how successful the project is he should, having joined a similar scheme in his early twenties.

"Having been unemployed myself as a young man without any employable skills I know how this scheme can change someone's life. If anyone is a advert for it then I am. I have been employed since getting on the scheme and my life has been significantly better because of it."

To find out more about places on the Team Green visit your local Jobcentre Plus or go to www.groundwork-km.org.uk

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fund boost for skatepark

A STATE-of-the-art skate and climbing park in Queenborough is one step closer to completion after funding was secured from the Big Lottery fund.

The park will bring a welcome diversion to young people in the area who often complain there is not enough for them to do on the island. As well as bike circuit and skate park it is hoped a climbing area will also be constructed.

The youth facility will be built on Whiteway Road in space also known as Wildfire Meadow.

To date council officials have managed to secure £135,000 made up of £117,300 from the Big Lottery fund, £10,000 from Queenborough town council and £5,000 from Kent County Council together with £3,000 from Queenborough and Rushenden Together.

The full cost of the project is estimated at £185,000 and officials hope to secure remaining funds from a Community Spaces grant valued at £49,999. Officers should know the success of the bid within the next few weeks.

Crash causes havoc on M2

AN EARLY morning pile-up on the London bound M2 caused traffic chaos and misery for hundreds of commuters on Monday.

A three-car crash at 5am closed the carriageway until 7.30am causing traffic gridlock between junction five and six.

One driver suffered minor injuries but no-one was taken to hospital.

Police urged motorists to take extra care as the winter weather continues. Drivers are advised to drop their speed and watch out for ice on the roads.

Thieves ditch and burn car

A STOLEN car was dumped and torched in Borden on Friday, February 5.

The burning Ford Mondeo was abandoned in Starveacre Lane at 10.32pm. Firefighters from Sittingbourne station took over an hour to control the blaze.

Police launched an investigation.

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New support network for women in business

WOMEN on the Isle of Sheppey have formed a group to help each other share knowledge and tips.

The launch of the Sheppey women's enterprise network follows in the footsteps of Faversham, formed four years ago.

Both groups are supported by the North Kent Enterprise Gateway (NKEG) service, which provides women with a multitude of resources including informal advice, skills training, one-to-one meetings and tailored information sessions.

NKEG director, Melodie Webster, said: "It's about woman in business coming together and sharing skills and knowledge."

Meetings will be held at the Blue Town Heritage Centre on the first Thursday of the month. Visit www.gateway@businesslinkkent.co.uk for more information.



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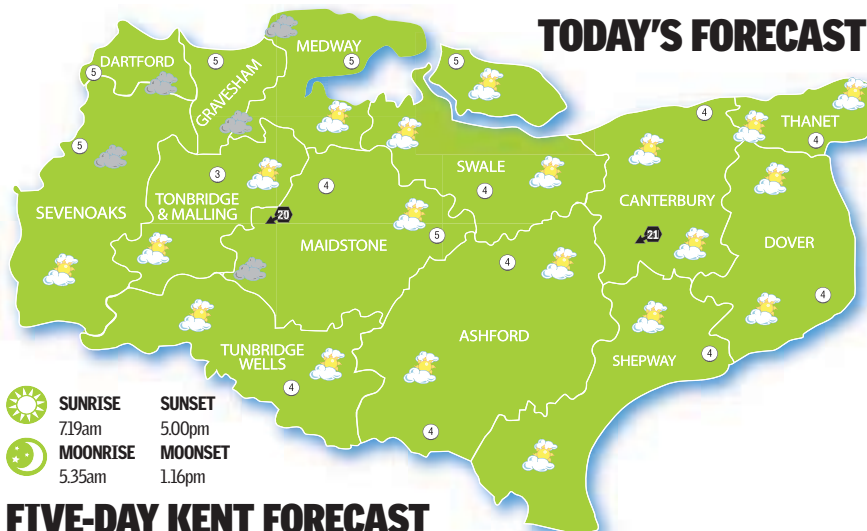
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:42pm	5.7m
	Sunday	1:15pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:55am	6.1m
	Sunday	11:27am	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:48am	6.9m
	Sunday	11:24am	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:25am	4.7m
	Sunday	11:57am	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:32pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:05pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:44pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:11pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-4°C	Madrid	9°C
Athens	10°C	New York	-2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	0°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	8°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	20°C	Warsaw	-7°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	16°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	5°C	2°C	3°C	4°C	Gravesend	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C
Canterbury	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C	Maidstone	5°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Ramsgate	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C
Dartford	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Rochester	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Dover	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	4°C	3°C	1°C	2°C	2°C
Faversham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Folkestone	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	Tonbridge	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Gillingham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Tun Wells	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C



FOUR-STAR: The Conniston hotel project was praised by planners

Planners' praise for hotel rooftop plans

HOTELIERS in Sittingbourne celebrated after hearing news they could develop a fourth-floor roof terrace last week.

Developers of The Conniston in London Road have spent four years working on the project and were commended for their hard work at a planning meeting on February 4.

Designer Duncan Burnst said: "This is a homegrown project and we have procured the majority of products from the area. We will provide 65 new jobs, most of which will be full time and we aim to recruit for the majority of these from the immediate area."

"We have spent four years on this project and taken every opportunity we could to involve the community. We hope this is born out in the feel and quality of the finished product."

A spokesman for the council said: "We commend the hotel developers for the quality of the design and the consultation process they undertook in order to gain the views of local people. We have not received one objection, only praise and support for it."

The redesigned four-star hotel will offer 77 en-suite bedrooms. Its facilities will be open to both resident and non-resident guests providing a 100-seat restaurant together with conference rooms and a new ballroom that will seat up 250 people.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

REBECCA PARRY



Q Tell us a little bit about yourself

A As the domestic abuse coordinator my role is an extremely varied one. My primary objective is to develop services for victims of domestic abuse. This ranges from raising funding, training and promoting existing services.

I work on behalf of Swale Domestic Violence Forum which is comprised of different agencies, both voluntary and statutory, within Swale who are in some way connected to domestic abuse services. Social services or Swale Mediation Services are two good examples.

I am fortunate to be in a position where I love my job, it is so varied and it is a cause which I am passionate about. One day I might be running the One Stop Shop for victims of domestic abuse and the next I may have to provide training. My previous employment has revolved around housing and domestic abuse so it's great to now work specifically within only domestic violence. I am currently studying an MA in Women and Child abuse so the subject is very important to me.

Q Swale gets a bad press sometimes - tell us something positive?

A I am thrilled to be working in Swale. There are so many fabulous organisations with such committed team members. So many individuals and organisations work tirelessly to

make a difference to their community. I find the level of time and effort put into events and the community a great source of inspiration.

Q What's the best bit about your job?

A There really are so many good aspects of my job it's difficult to choose. However if I have to narrow it down, I would say the opportunity to work on a project from the initial idea, to raising the funds, through to the development and watching it progress. That and the opportunity to still be involved in some frontline work through the One Stop Shop.

Q And the worst?

A The financial challenge of working with limited funding when there is a greater demand for services.

Q If you could do any other job, what would it be and why?

A I am happy where I am, thank you.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I like to keep busy spending time with friends and family. I do my best to try and get some exercise in, but with work and study my time is usually pretty full up.

Q Last good read?

A On The Other Hand. I strongly recommend this, with the caution that it is a harrowing read. It is written from the perspective of a refugee from Nambia fleeing to the UK after losing her family.

Q Last film?

A Benjamin Button, I felt very sad afterwards, but it is a great film. I do want to go and see Avatar.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A I urge anyone reading this who is experiencing domestic abuse, or is concerned about their relationship or for a friend or loved to please make contact with the One Stop Shop or contact the Swale Domestic Abuse information line which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on 01795 434300.

• The One Stop Shop is open every Tuesday morning from 9.30am to 11am at Phoenix House in Central Avenue, Sittingbourne.

Domestic violence happens to people in all walks of life and you are not alone. There are professional support agencies available in Swale to offer you advice and support.

If you are in danger, then please make direct contact with the emergency services.



Swale council's domestic abuse co-ordinator tells **Jill Hurst** why she loves Swale, how she spends her spare time and how her job is the perfect one for her, despite the financial challenges it presents



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If you or someone else is suffering from domestic abuse, call Kent Police on **01622 690690**

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For more information about the one stop shop or for help, call the Swale Domestic Abuse information line on **01795 434300**

For actions on priorities where you live visit: **www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid**

**Swale Community
Safety Partnership**



Specialist advisor to help sexually-abused children



SUPPORT: The Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor will help to give abused children a voice

Grant will provide dedicated support for young rape victims

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A CHARITY supporting Kent's victims of rape and sexual violence has secured funding for Britain's first-ever children's independent advisor.

The new position means young people who have suffered abuse at the hands of rapists and paedophiles can access specialist, confidential support solely for youngsters.

Gravesend-based Family Matters was able to make the provision thanks to a grant of £64,000 from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Malcolm Gilbert, operations director at the charity, said the new Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (YP-ISVA) was vital.

He said: "Of the 200 rape victims we see, a quarter are aged 12 to 16.

"By offering this help we are filling a gap which has never been done before for children."

Mr Gilbert added that as well as

being awarded the grant, the partnership between Family Matters, the Crown Prosecution Service and Kent Police through the Kent Criminal Justice Board had made real changes to victim support.

The organisations are also working with the UK Border Agency to help deal with young girls who have been trafficked for the sex trade.

Rebecca Masey, who has taken on the YP-ISVA position, will offer tailored support to children and young people who have suffered rape or sexual abuse and act as a gateway to the charity's therapy service.

Risk assessments will take place to ensure further victimisation is stopped. The focus will be on hard-to-reach groups and youngsters less likely to come forward for help. Close family members of victims will also receive support.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian

Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said he was sure that the specialist service would also help secure convictions.

"Through this role, vulnerable and emotionally-scarred children will get more of the help and support they need and deserve," he said.

One person who knows only too well the need for services like Family Matters is 24-year-old Sarah (not her real name).

Last August she was raped by two men after her drink was spiked. Speaking about her ordeal to KOS Media, she said she would not have been able to cope had it not been for the Adults' Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.

"It's important children are helped too," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to get through this without the counselling.

"I would just say to anybody, don't hide it. Come forward and get help."

For more information, go to www.familymattersuk.org.

Artefacts saved as fire museum made homeless

THE Kent fire service museum urgently needs a new home.

Fire chiefs have reluctantly been forced to move it from their Maidstone headquarters and are now hunting for a new location to house the collection.

Fire service historian Roger Mardon, from Canterbury, said he was sad about the closure but delighted his campaign to keep the collection together had been successful.

He said: "In my view, the museum should preferably be maintained at service headquarters, but if that were not to be it is important to preserve the collection intact.

"There was unanimous support [at the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority's planning and performance committee] for the principle of keeping the collection together.

"A project team, including representatives of the interested parties, is to be established to develop plans for a virtual [online] museum and for rehousing the artefacts.

"Committee chairman Keith Ferrin made it clear it was not the intention to close the existing museum straight away and he undertook that everything possible would be done to rehouse the collection in one place.

"While it is disappointing the museum will have to move, I am encouraged by the support for keeping the collection together. Every effort must be made to find somewhere this can be done."

The museum opens one day a week and includes artefacts including videos of fire, photographs and a hollowed-out tree trunk used as a water main.

A fire service spokesman said: "We have teams of staff who need to be located at our HQ to run the service and we do not have room to house them.

"This means we have to look at all options and freeing up space taken up by the museum has to be considered."



Picture: ROGER MARDON

HISTORY: This Bromley steamer is one of many fascinating artefacts to be seen at the museum

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Eastern and Coastal Kent

Homes should cash in by generating their own electricity

DEMAND for solar panels is set to soar after the Government announced a support scheme allowing householders to make an income from generating their own power, a renewable-energy researcher has predicted, *writes Jenna Pudelek*.

Kent Green Party member Steve Plater said he was planning to install a photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of his Sevenoaks home that will convert solar radiation into enough electricity to meet three-quarters of his needs and save about £500 a year in energy bills.

Energy and climate change secretary Ed Miliband unveiled the new scheme this week; it will see 'feed-in tariffs' (FITs) paid to people, com-

munities and businesses who generate electricity from solar panels, wind turbines or other renewable sources.

PV panels on household roofs will get a higher feed-in tariff and all will be up-rated with inflation each year.

Mr Plater said that after his system was installed he would make about £1,000 a year in payments as a result.

"Anyone who has got money sitting in a building society account would get a much better return by investing it in solar electricity," he said.

The Government said the sector would supply two per cent of the UK's electricity by 2020.

However, the Conservative Party and environmental campaigners

have said the announcement lacks ambition.

Shadow energy and climate change secretary Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: "FITs are essential to allow decentralised energy to play a major role in our energy mix, but Labour's proposals lack ambition."

"Ministers should have been bolder with this scheme so more jobs could have been created and greater emissions reductions achieved."

Mr Plater, who gives talks about microgeneration of renewable energy across Kent, said: "It is really not ambitious enough – Germany already generates two per cent of its electricity from solar."

"The key point about renewable energy and energy efficiency is they go together and you can deploy them in hundreds of thousands of places very quickly."

"It is much quicker than building huge power stations – nuclear or coal takes years and years and they are not going to help us achieve climate-change targets by 2020."

"And we are the last major country in Europe to bring FITs in. Germany has had one since 2000."

However, Mr Plater thought that FITs would make renewable energy systems such as PV panels more attractive to householders.

"There are other reasons people want it, but clearly money is an

important driver – being able to finance it matters and also feeling independent from energy companies.

"If you can generate three-quarters of electricity from your own roof you largely escape future price rises."

Initial installation costs were high, with panels costing £5,000 per kilowatt of capacity, he said.

People can receive grants from the Energy Saving Trust's low-carbon building scheme, but only until March this year. However, with the feed-in tariff income, and saving on electricity bills, it makes an attractive tax-free return on investment of eight to 10 per cent, which is better than most forms of savings account, the Kent Green Party said.



HEROES: The SSFA is celebrating its 125th anniversary and wants your help to raise funds for ex-service personnel

125th birthday appeal to help Armed Forces

AN ORGANISATION that helps Armed Forces personnel is 125 years old this year.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) helps those currently in the military and servicemen who have left and are in need.

The Kent branch has unveiled a special campaign – SSAFA 125 – which is being launched with a service of celebration at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, February 18.

Suresh Khanna, the county's director of public affairs for the group, said: "To mark our 125th anniversary we are launching Target 125 and asking everyone to 'Be a Hero' and raise £125 for SSAFA Forces Help in 2010."

Adapted

"Every contribution will help us to meet our pledge to support our troops and their families, now and for the rest of their lives."

"As the number of fatalities and serious injuries sustained in Afghanistan continues to rise, SSAFA's family-support groups are playing a vital role in helping relatives come to terms with loss and life-changing injuries."

"To date, 254 British servicemen and women have lost their lives in Afghanistan and this number increases by the day."

He said almost every parish in Kent had a connection with the Armed Forces so it was important to raise as much money as possible to provide service personnel with assistance.

He said: "Working in extremely dangerous and challenging circumstances, SSAFA Forces Help continues to provide our servicemen and women and their families with the practical support they need."

"Over the course of more than a century SSAFA has adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of our Armed Forces."

The organisation was founded in 1885 to support troops and families of the second

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

expeditionary force to Egypt. One of its current patrons is Prince Michael of Kent.

As well as fatalities, many servicemen and women return home from war zones seriously wounded.

SSAFA's two recently-opened Norton Homes, in Birmingham and Ashstead, Surrey, allow injured troops to spend time with their loved ones away from the hospital environment where they are being treated, giving them the opportunity to do normal family things such as eat a meal together or simply watch a film.

David Culmer, chairman of the south-east London branch, said: "In Bromley and Bexley we are running events throughout the year – look out for our flag day on February 13 in supermarkets, our quiz night for Heroes on May 14, and our band concert in October."

To help, go to www.ssafa125.org.uk or phone the Kent county secretary on 01580 891507.

• A castle ball is being held at Lympne Castle on Saturday, February 27, to raise money for the Help For Heroes charity.

Party-goers can explore the entire castle and tuck into a curry feast and crêperie. There will also be a live jazz band followed by a disco in the castle's grand ballroom.

Being raffled and auctioned on the night will be a pair of Andy Murray-signed shorts, artwork signed by the Kaiser Chiefs and signed CDs from Tom Jones, Sting and The Stereophonics, plus other celebrity items.

The chairy has donated more than £23 million to help servicemen and women since its conception.

Tickets cost £39 and include hot buffet, entertainment and mulled wine on arrival.

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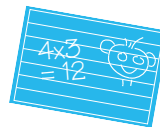
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BREAK TIME

Bull Inn challenge

A LANDLADY from Faversham has ordered her regulars to get on their bikes to raise money for needy children.

Sara Apps convinced three customers at the Bull Inn in Tanners Street to take part in a sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats in Scotland to Faversham in aid of the Kent Kids Miles of Smiles charity.

She said: "We hope to raise more than £4,000 and we are looking for as much sponsorship as possible, whether that is help with accommodation on route or donating money. This ride is going to be long and tough, so we need as much help as possible."

The team plan to make the 800-mile journey in eight days, setting off on August 13.

Kent Kids Miles of Smiles and provides care for sick and disabled children and young adults. For further information, visit www.shepherdneame.co.uk.

Shaw to the rescue

HOCKEY players on the Lorenden Preparatory School under-11 boys' team pulled back from the brink to take victory against Canterbury's St Edmund's.

The Faversham lads were one down after losing the first game 1-0, but came back to save their pride after George Shaw struck twice to take the second game 2-0.



School portal will open host of hi-tech options

■ BY JILL HURST

PARENTS with children at one Faversham school will soon be able to keep up to date with their youngsters' progress by computer and mobile phone.

The Abbey School, in London Road, aims to introduce technology that will enable parents to access the school's website using a secure username and password.

Deputy head Kevin Dickens said all students at the business enterprise school were already able to access their work and most of the school's software from home, allowing them to revise and complete coursework whenever they want to.

He added: "The next stage is to develop the technology allow parents to monitor their children's progress from home, work or even their mobile phone."

"The technology will also allow parents to post comments or suggestions and if other parents think it is a good idea they can click on the vote button. The most popular ideas will be added to the school's development plan."

Parent Caroline Blythe who has two children at the school was asked to try a pilot system.

She said: "I found it easy to use and an excellent way of finding out about what is happening at the school. Both my children access the school portal from home to do their homework and use the resources."

"The system allows me to give feedback and



ONLINE ACCESS: Parent Caroline Blythe, who has two children at the Abbey School, has tested the new system

vote with other parents about what I found helpful, and what I would like to suggest as an idea for improvement or change. It is fantastic that we have a safe and secure facility like this that we can access from work or home. This is definitely leading the way for other schools."

Head teacher Catrin Woodend said the school's recent Ofsted report had spurred

them on: "We were extremely pleased with the report and are determined to work on improving communication between parents and the school. This is a priority for the Abbey."

To find out more about the system or arrange a visit to the school contact Georgina Davis on gdavis@abbey.kent.sch.uk or ring 01795 532633.

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One MP is using the iPhone to stay in touch with his voters, but it won't catch on, says Gary Wright



Why most MPs aren't really ready for the superhighway

FANTASTIC story this week about MP Derek Wyatt who has launched the iPhone* app to let his constituents stay in touch with him.

For those of you unfamiliar with the technological wizardry, it means simply that using your iPhone* (you all have one don't you?) you can contact Sittingbourne's Mr Wyatt and interact anytime.

I admire Mr Wyatt (or 'two pork pies and a Scotch egg' as he's affectionately known after the expenses debacle) for taking up the challenge of bringing new tech to the masses and I honestly wish him well in his quest to engage even more closely with his constituents.

Unfortunately I forecast a rush to the Apple Store by the 10-or-so constituency nutters – that plague every MP – so that they can back up their weekly letters to Mr Wyatt.

Even the biggest Luddite must have heard of the Apple app? If you believe the ads on telly the iPhone* can be made to do anything and

while it might not make the tea, there is probably an app that tells you how to make the perfect cuppa (and probably some information about blending).

But times really are a changin' and our MPs will do anything to get down with the kids and interact. Whether they are Twittering (er, another social network craze for those too lazy to write more than 20 words at a time) to guesting on any TV show which claims viewers under 25.

There is a part of me, a very small part, that believes MPs really do wish to make the world a better place and to give a voice to their constituents no matter how marginalised.

Mr Wyatt (who already runs a good website) said: "I certainly hope that now people know it can be done, and that citizens want to engage in this way, my colleagues at home and abroad take this idea and make it even better for their constituents."

The app was written by public sector digital agency, Public Zone, and is available free of charge from the Apple iTunes store.

Public Zone intends to roll out the MyMP

app, which also integrates with Google Maps, to other MPs this month.

I wish Mr Wyatt well but I foresee a slight problem with his fellow MPs.

Modern technology is pretty damn clever. The iPhone* is a very smart piece of kit. But because of their GPS abilities and the marvel of Google Maps (from satellite pictures right down to a picture of your front garden just from a postcode), the iPhone* can tell you exactly where you are. Oh yes, and it can tell everyone else exactly where you are.

Brilliant for parents who want to watch their kids (but who'd trust them with a 500 quid phone?) but not perhaps for your average MP.

Do they really want people to know exactly where they are every minute of the day?

I suspect not, far too risky... though I guess they could always leave their iPhone* in the House of Commons on answerphone while they slipped off to do other things.

* Other smartphones are cheaper: Google Nexus, Nokia N900, HTC Hero but they haven't the hype (or such a successful App Store).

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And they're not happy: Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen and Percy is the prime suspect. Even more troubling is the sudden disappearance of Percy's mother. As Percy adapts to his newly discovered status as a demi-god (his father is Poseidon), he finds himself caught between the battling titans of Mt Olympus. He and his friends embark on a cross-country adventure to catch the true lightning thief, save Percy's mom and unravel a mystery more powerful than the gods themselves.

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Question: From what date is Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief showing in cinemas?

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TALK TIME

GORDON HENDERSON

The Tory candidate for Sittingbourne and Swale on why he wants to be an MP, what he plans to do if elected and how the area has changed in the last 30 years



Tell us a bit about yourself

Political opponents could never accuse me of being a toff because I come from a working-class background. I was born in Brompton Military Hospital, which makes me both a man of Kent and a lifelong Gills supporter. I grew up on a council estate and went to state schools until I was 16, when I started working for Woolworths.

Why do you want to be an MP?

My background. Not enough MPs understand what life is like in the real world. Too many have no experience of business or the shop floor. I think this lack of contact with the realities of working life contributed to the expenses scandal. MPs believed they were entitled to abuse the system. I want to be different.

How has Sheppey changed over the years?

I have lived on Sheppey for 26 years and seen lots of changes. Islanders have gained a crossing to the mainland, but lost their general hospital. We've had an increase in prison jobs, but seen jobs lost in other industries. Tesco has gone from strength to strength, but Sheerness High Street has seen established shops disappear. Is Sheppey a better place for these changes? I'll leave my fellow islanders to make up their own minds about that.

What are your priorities for the constituency?

Individual backbench MPs have limited power to influence policy and I don't believe in promising to do something I cannot achieve. However, one objective is to see an improvement in the lot of pensioners.

YOUR LETTERS



Our councillors are arbiters of taste?

Faversham is growing and if Sainsbury's wants to build here, let the company get on with it.

I appreciate Swale council wants to protect us from poor design – but when did that start?

If you look at some of the buildings for which councillors have given the go ahead, you have to ask yourself whether they are being consistent.

Consumer choice has got to be good and 250 new jobs has to be a major incentive.

Name and address withheld



Portugal ordeal is warning to us all

I have never written to a paper before but felt I had to write in support of Garry Mann.

This former fireman who was caught up in football hooliganism six years ago in Portugal has suffered enough. I now don't actual-



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We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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ly care whether he is or isn't innocent. The simple truth is this man was not treated properly under the legal system of a civilised, European country.

End of discussion. But I do hope his ordeal will act as a

reminder to anyone who travels abroad to follow their football team. It's not just football fans who need to look at their behaviour. Whatever happened to the days when the English (rather than British) remembered they

represented their country when they went to foreign lands?

I despair when I see the drunken and drug-induced antics of my fellow countrymen on holiday.

Marmaduke Tolsen, by email

This fine policeman is a credit to force



I very much enjoyed reading Jill Hurst's story about Inspector David Applegate, who retires from the police this month.

I had the pleasure of meeting him once. He is a fine officer and a credit to the force who has made a genuine effort to improve life on the Isle of Sheppey.

I wish him well.

Name and address withheld

Green feed-in tariff

Kent Green Party welcomes feed-in tariffs for small scale renewable energy, announced by the Government on February 1.

The party has long campaigned for a feed-in tariff, which has been used successfully in other countries to boost microgenera-

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Item Code 4002

Further features include Lumibrite hands and markers, which appear illuminated at night, clear hour, minute and second hands, numeric markers, and a magnified date window. It is also water resistant to 100m. The Pulsar Kinetic watch has classic military styling, which is set off by a brushed stainless steel case, an understated black dial, and a black padded leather strap with contrasting stitching. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer for two years.

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tion of renewable energy. The new tariff provides a long-term guaranteed price for all electricity generated, even if the it is used by the householder.

An extra tariff is paid for electricity fed into the grid. The feed-in tariff income and saving on electricity purchased yields an attractive tax-free return on investment of about eight to ten per cent – better than most forms of savings account.

Tim Valentine, who lives in Selling and is the Green Party candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent at the general election, had a photovoltaic system installed on January 29. In most cases, planning permission is not required. The panels have already generated 20 units of electricity, even in weak winter sunshine. The system will generate 60 per cent of the electricity his house uses.

The feed-in tariff will provide an income of about £1,000 a year and reduce his electricity bill by a further £170. The whole system was installed and commissioned in a couple of days. Green Party policy is to create a million jobs in areas such as renewables, energy efficiency and public transport. Installing PV systems, for example, creates jobs for roofers, scaffolders, electricians and project managers.

Kent Green Party, by email

Get ready for take-off

Do any of readers want to take up a challenge? I am writing to let people know about our skydive campaign. A sponsored

skydive is a different way to raise money for charity and a great way to start 2010.

Anyone who raises £395 or more for us at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) will also be able to skydive for free.

Money raised from sponsored skydives will help fund our research and education programmes on the link between lifestyle and cancer. To find out more about a sponsored skydive, visit www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising or call 0207 343 4200.

Natalie Tarrant, World Cancer Research Fund

Join meningitis session

If any readers have questions or concerns about meningitis we urge them to take part in Meningitis UK's latest initiative, called Ask the Expert. It gives direct access to medical professionals at the forefront of treating and fighting the disease.

Until Friday, February 19, you can go to www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert and pose any question on the subject of preventing meningitis. Experts have been lined up to respond and answers will go live on February 25. We hope the initiative will help improve knowledge and awareness of meningitis during the month when cases peak and we need to be extra vigilant.

People are most at risk during the colder months, with the majority of dangerous bacterial forms striking due to weakened immune systems and germs spreading more easily.

Kate Rowland, Meningitis UK

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Take a trip to Toytown

Noddy and Big Ears are joined by all their friends for a big party, but naughty Sly and Gobbo have other plans

NODDY

Various dates
Various venues



PAY a visit to Toy Town in the company of a children's favourite when Noddy returns to Kent.

Children all over the county have the chance to see the cheeky young chap and all his friends on stage in this colourful and exciting stage show.

With lots of songs and dances for the audience to join in, this is a fun-packed production for children of all ages. The tour also coincides with the 60th anniversary of Enid Blyton's enduringly popular creation.

It is the start of an exciting day in Toy Town because there is a special event lined up for the residents. Noddy and Tessie Bear are planning a sing-along, dance-along party.

The only people who are not welcome are the two naughty goblins, Sly and Gobbo, who cannot be trusted to behave well and not try to spoil everyone's enjoyment.

Armed with the Sound Sucker, another bizarre machine from Goblin Gizmos, the naughty pair set out to ruin the party. But their wicked plans could yet be thwarted by Noddy, who is determined to keep an eye on the goblins and make sure the day is not spoiled.

All the popular residents of Toy Town appear in the 90-minute show, including Mr Plod, Whiz the Robot, Bumpy Dog and Noddy's best friend,

Big Ears. Together they invite all the children to take part in a fun-filled adventure that provides a great introduction to live theatre.

Noddy made his first appearance in 1949 and became an icon of children's literature, providing the perfect way for youngsters to discover Blyton's writing. During the 20-year period between his creation and Blyton's death, 154 books featuring Noddy were produced and there was a wealth of Noddy merchandise for fans to buy, from Noddy toothbrushes and soap to nightdresses and bedside lights.

The Noddy Live show can be seen at the Central Theatre, Chatham on Sunday, February 21; the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Monday, April 12 and the Woodville Halls, Gravesend on Thursday, June 3.



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YEAR OF THE TIGER

Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14
Chatham Town Centre

ENJOY a taste of the Orient this weekend when Medway welcomes the Year of the Tiger.

The fun starts at 11.30am on Saturday when colourful street stalls open at the corner of Military Road and High Street selling Chinese gifts and decorations. Enjoy exotic entertainment from the Medway Lion Dance Team, along with performances of traditional Chinese folk dances by young students from Dance Alley.

Using clever artistry, the face painters will transform spectators into fearsome tigers and there will be opportunities to admire the martial arts of the East with demonstrations of Tai Chi by Shi Kon Martial Arts and Kung Fu Kids.

On Sunday the vibrant



Chinese New Year Parade will set out in Military Road at noon and make its way along Chatham High Street, led by Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Royle. Various dance teams will take part in a Chinese New Year show at

the Corn Exchange in Rochester at 2.30pm, which includes colourful costumes and Chinese folk songs. Tickets cost £7.50/£5.50, to book call Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666.

SWALE LEISURE

Classic comedy marks 50 years of learning

A FRUSTRATED student takes a second chance at learning in Willy Russell's acclaimed play, *Educating Rita*.

To mark 40 years of innovative learning, the Open University has teamed up with Pitchy Breath Theatre to present this story. Before the performance, OU staff will be taking questions about study opportunities.

The show is at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, at 7.45pm next Tuesday and Wednesday. Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or on 01227 769075.

Ancient wisdom at the centre of Brecht play

A TUG of love between two women is decided by a controversial judge in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

Medway Little Theatre in Rochester presents a Youth Company production of Bertolt Brecht's compelling play.

The play runs from Thursday to Saturday. To book call the box office on 01634 400322 or go online at www.mlt.org.uk.

Get caught up in The Crossfire at pub night

FOR an evening of live entertainment, head down to Badlesmere this week.

The Red Lion in Ashford Road has music every Friday. This week Robin Falcon and The Crossfire will be performing. For more information about the venue or the music nights, call the pub on 01233 740320.

Sharpen your pencils for life-drawing class

LEARN to reflect the beauty of the natural form by attending life drawing classes in Sittingbourne.

LB Graphics is running the courses at the Avenue Theatre in Avenue of Remembrance from Tuesday. The class runs from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and the stage door entrance is closed at 6.45p.

Admission costs £8 per session and artists should bring their own materials.

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CANTERBURY TALES

Saturday, February 13 to Sunday, February 21
Canterbury Tales, Canterbury

SEE if you can spot a mobile phone in a medieval pocket at the Canterbury Tales this half term.

To mark the school break, the attraction has selected 10 items that 21st century pilgrims would not leave home without and hidden them among the 14th century travellers. Visitors are invited to spot these incongruous items – which range from a Mars bar to an Ordnance Survey map – as they make their way through the fascinating attraction in St Margaret's Church.

The Canterbury Tales allows visitors to step back in time and experience the sights, sounds and smells of life in the city 700 years ago. The fun and educational exhibits not only offer the chance to learn about



Canterbury's history, but also to discover the great literary work of Geoffrey Chaucer.

Join Chaucer and his band of pilgrims as they make their way from London to

Canterbury Cathedral, with five of his best-loved tales being brought to life on the way.

For more information visit www.canterburytales.org.uk or call 01227 784600.

BELOW STAIRS AT LEEDS CASTLE

Monday, February 15 to Sunday, February 21
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

HISTORY comes alive at Leeds Castle as servants of the past return to talk about their work.

Visitors can find out what it was like to live 'below stairs' at the historic castle over the ages, as its history is told through the eyes of the staff. The special interactive show will be bustling with costumed characters who have stepped straight out of the past to entertain 21st century visitors this half term.

The guide on this historical journey will be Gurth, a Saxon swineherd who travels through time to meet former owners of the castle and their servants. Held in a marquee by the maze, the



show offers audiences of all ages the chance to learn about history in a fun and engaging way that is not confined to a classroom. An extra charge of £1 per person applies for the show.

Key to the Castle tickets cost £16.50/£13.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and are free for under-fours. To find out more call 01622 765400 or visit www.leeds-castle.com.

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Hip hop title up for grabs, and ShyChlo is in running



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WHEN grime star Lady Sovereign entered the Big Brother house last month she left her 'queen of UK hip hop' title and arguably her credibility at the door.

Pretenders to the throne are now intent on climbing the charts and claiming her crown.

One such would-be queen is Canterbury MC/writer/producer ShyChlo.

The 22-year-old has drawn the interest of a number of industry movers and shakers since bursting on to the live scene in 2008 and looks certain to draw more attention with the release of her debut single Mental Confusion later this year.

ShyChlo said her success was down to her lyrics, which go beyond the tired hip hop subjects of guns and violence.

"I just write and say what I feel, going beyond the glitz and glamour of the stereotypical 'rags to riches' hip hop, and focusing on issues like the struggles and peer pressures of today's youth – politics, religion and personal insecurities."

ShyChlo is something of a genre merger, drawing influences from UK hip hop, rock, punk and funk.

It's this fusion that saw new independent record label Flickfinger Records sign the young artist up.

Co-founder Kieron Corcoran said: "ShyChlo has a very clever mix of UK hip hop, rock and other musical styles."

"Her sound isn't affected by the US hip hop scene and so it's unique."



LINE-UP: MC Devlin, above, and rapper XO Man, right, will be supporting ShyChlo, left, at the Hazlitt Theatre this weekend



"She's got a lot of great feedback through the Myspace page and the fanbase is growing really quickly."

ShyChlo will perform at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, this Friday, backed by her four-piece band.

Support on the night comes from Hugo Urban Rules winning rapper XO Man and Dagenham-born grime MC Devlin.

For more information visit www.myspace.com/shychlomusic

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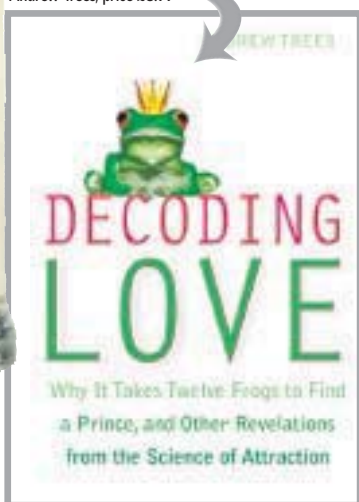
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IDEAS for a spring makeover can be
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On Saturday there will be four funky
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main mall, outside Costa Coffee, in
which the latest looks for women, men
and children will be displayed.

The shows start at 11.30am, 1pm,
2.30pm and 3.30pm. For more informa-
tion visit www.countysquashopping-
centre.com.

What a sparkling treat for February 14th

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Magnolia has unveiled its special Heart
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Desserts will put loved ones on cloud nine

SAY it with meringues this Valentine's
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Faversham-based Head in the Clouds
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re-open on March 20.

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Disney breaks with tradition and casts its first ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

Two for price of one as Cera tackles double role

■ BY KATE WHITING

YOUTH In Revolt stars one of Hollywood's up-and-coming stars in Michael Cera, who's made his name through a string of geeky roles in Juno, Superbad and last year's Nick And Norah's Infinite Playlist.

At 21, Cera is no newcomer to the big screen – he's been acting since he was nine – but it was his role as High School student father Paulie Bleeker in Juno that made critics take notice. He was even nominated last year for the Bafta Orange Rising Star Award.

In Youth In Revolt, he plays strait-laced teen Nick Twisp, who has a taste for the finer things in life like Sinatra and Fellini.

On a family holiday, he falls for free-spirited Sheeni who eggs him on to create a rebellious French alter ego: Francois. Sporting a moustache and smoking, Francois takes Nick in an outrageous new direction, as he tries to win Sheeni's love.

Canadian Cera had long been a fan of author C.D. Payne, who wrote the book Youth In Revolt: The Journals Of Nick Twisp, on which the film is based, and was signed up to the project before Juno and Superbad even hit our screens.

"The book is really funny. It's got a really unique voice and it's gigantic, it takes months to read if you're a slow reader. I was around the age of Nick when I read it and I completely related to it," says Cera, with a half-smile.

"I related to the agony of not knowing what's going on and being obsessed with a girl and not having any control, which Payne wrote really perfectly."



ALTER EGO: Michael Cera as French Francois

When Nick meets Sheeni, he's feeling completely disillusioned about his mundane existence. Cera explains: "Nick doesn't have a great home life. His parents are divorced, his mother has an idiot boyfriend and his life is stagnant. He meets this girl who blows his mind and he feels he has to hang on to her."

Cera reportedly split from his actress girlfriend Charlyne Yi last summer after they co-

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starred in indie project Paper Heart. He says he can relate to the 'torment' Nick suffers through his love for the mysterious Sheeni.

"You never know what she feels about you or what she's really thinking. She's such a puzzle. That's really what I loved about the character. She's so well-depicted in the book."

Despite having to play two very different characters in the same film, Cera insists he didn't find this difficult. In fact, he loved the opportunity to play a naughty version of Nick.

"It was just a lot of fun to play. I wouldn't say it was hard, except for the technical tricks of it. I can't think of any challenges, except for trying to figure out how to play Francois initially, and what the voice was going to be like."

YOUTH IN REVOLT Certificate 15

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

COMING OF AGE BBC Three, 10.30pm, Tuesday

IF ever there was a TV show from which not to take a comedic lead, then it's the never-not-appalling mess that is Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps.

Despite being one of the least funny sit-coms ever made it has now run for eight series, proving that someone out there must be watching it.

I didn't think it was possible for a show to be less funny or more moronic until I saw Coming Of Age, the latest BBC Three laugh-free zone, which is undeniably influenced by its bigger brother.

Here we meet our five main characters – three lads and two girls who attend the local sixth-form college.

They dress like they've been sponsored by Topshop and talk as if they have been locked in a room listening to Fearnie Cotton since the day they were born.

They think of little else but who's going out with whom, when they are next getting drunk, and, erm... no, actually, that's it.

One recent episode had one of the female leads, a frizzy-haired girl whose name I have blocked out through trauma, boasting of relieving herself in a pub car park because the toilets were locked or blocked.

The pub, by the way, was called The Beaver (geddit?!).

I hate this show – it makes me wonder why I am alive.

It is a terrible waste of time and may well have been written by 12-year-olds on their school lunch break between games of Pokemon and mouthfuls of cheese strings.

Yet, as much as I hate it, strangely I find myself drawn in.

I wonder if one day it will ever



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Joe Tracini plays DK in BBC Three's so-called sit-com Coming of Age

make me laugh, or if I'll ever see the point, or if a plotline will involve any kind of imagination other than the bleedin' obvious.

Three of the characters are just plain annoying, but they seem like two of the screen's great creations when compared with one of the others.

Darren, or DK, is an imbecile of the very highest order.

He's the kind of tracksuited village idiot who goes into a trance when somebody mentions 'boobs' or 'bum' and is what makes the whole sorry affair plunge through the bottom of the barrel and start tunnelling for Australia with a JCB.

I read that the first series of this abomination is available on DVD.

I'm planning to buy a copy and blow it up with TNT.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL get a divine opportunity to put your expertise to work this week. If you play your cards right you could become a renowned expert in your field. You have to admit that it will be lovely having your pick of job offers. A best friend or colleague may be jealous of your success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU could be handed some serious work responsibilities. Although these tasks fall outside of your normal job description, give them a whirl anyway. Your boss will be impressed by your versatility. If you are unemployed, apply for jobs in an entirely new industry.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A FACT-finding mission helps a good friend with their work. If you see someone struggling, offer to do some research on their behalf. It gives you so much satisfaction to offer practical assistance. It may be hard to control your temper with the person you are helping.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

AN institution or hospital can give you the services you need. It's all a matter of filling out the paperwork properly. If you feel as if you're out of your depth, ask a friend for help. Their advice will be invaluable. Your boss may be putting undue pressure on you to meet a deadline.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

MONEY could be tight this week, which is really frustrating. You may not be able to afford all the things you have planned. Don't make lame excuses; be truthful. Friends won't judge you, but they will offer help, both emotional and financial. Accept the former and refuse the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

AN ability to put your creative talent to practical use helps you to travel or study for very little money. Refrain from telling an authority figure what you really think of their methods. Yes, this person is really full of themselves, but they do have the power to hire or fire you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

THIS is a good time to make a large-scale purchase of some kind. Your first priority should be finding products that are known to be durable. A flashy status symbol may be a big boost to your ego, but it will also dent your budget. Do a little research into which product is best.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

TAKING a class will put you in contact with influential people. If you long to switch industries, you need to surround yourself with those who can further your interests. An egotistical teacher could rub you the wrong way. Fortunately, you don't have to study with this blowhard.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

PAYING off a debt gives you a feeling of pride. It also helps you to spend more time on the activities you love. In the past you may have had to work a couple of jobs to make ends meet. Now that your financial obligations have been fulfilled you can go back something you enjoy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

PROVIDING stability for your loved ones is a noble endeavour. As a child, you may have been subject to an adult's wayward ways. Not knowing what was going to happen caused you a great deal of anxiety. Now you have an opportunity to create a nurturing environment for your family.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

ALL your hard work is starting to pay off. Although you may not have followed the most secure route to success, you didn't let that stop you from pursuing your dream. However, now that you've achieved some success, a one-time friend has become jealous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

MORAL integrity is the cornerstone to your success. While your competitors may cut corners or make false claims to attract business, you refuse to stoop that low. Granted, it may take longer for you to attract business, but eventually the public will recognise that you're the best.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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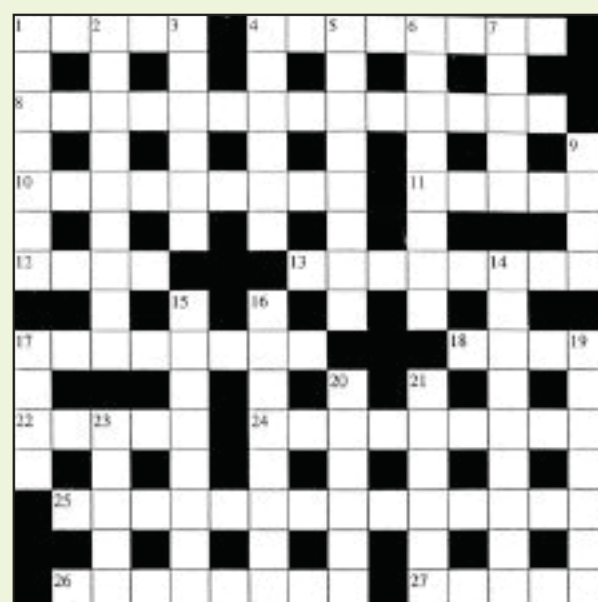
ACROSS

- 1 Greek character thus produced pleasing sounds (5)
- 4 Mabel struggled having endless area to adorn (8)
- 8 Below building basic framework (14)
- 10 Showing layout of 99 matches played (9)
- 11 Didn't have mount for horse show (5)
- 12 Labourer loses five ships (4)
- 13 Patriot said drink must go first (8)
- 17 Question to disappear going round overcome (8)
- 18 English county was familiar in Scotland (4)
- 22 Luxury car encircling one fast car (5)
- 24 Not sure re performing a nice turn (9)
- 25 Market gardening business that is developing (6,8)
- 26 There's no going through it by the way (3-2-3)
- 27 Herb says 'time' (5)

DOWN

- 1 China from SE Nemes (7)
- 2 Secure harbour that's a demilitarised area (4,5)
- 3 Sticky medal in mud (6)
- 4 Being something (6)
- 5 He, mixing with public, found it highly valued (4-4)
- 6 One's second personality to regale monstrosity (5,3)
- 7 In River Soar Edmund rowed (5)
- 9 Habit of refusal? (4)
- 14 At home showing agreement but only roughly (9)
- 15 How Buck dug underground? (8)
- 16 Equivalent US cash Ma exchanged (2,4,2)
- 17 Particularly light? (4)
- 19 Can sort one of the prints (7)
- 20 Railway in dramatic surroundings (6)
- 21 Prince to expel novelist (6)
- 23 Some of decor furnishing island (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Manufacturer (5)
- 4 Fluctuating (8)
- 8 November 5th (3,6,5)
- 10 Bring in (9)
- 11 One from Des Moines perhaps (5)
- 12 Behind time (4)
- 13 Suicidal attack (8)
- 17 Condemn unheard (8)
- 18 Restraint (4)
- 22 Church council (5)
- 24 Underground fighter (9)
- 25 Intellectual nourishment (4,3,7)
- 26 Spawning (anag.) (8)
- 27 Prepared (5)

DOWN

- 1 Fool (7)
- 2 Single operation on typewriter (9)
- 3 Motive (6)
- 4 Stop sleeping (4,2)
- 5 Claviers (anag.) (8)
- 6 Nasal inflammation (8)
- 7 Not at all (5)
- 9 Leg joint (4)
- 14 Columbine (9)
- 15 Blind person's helper (5,3)
- 16 Up a gorge (anag.) (3,5)
- 17 Mail (4)
- 19 Brutal (7)
- 20 Bellringer (6)
- 21 Bower (6)
- 23 Ruth's mother-in-law (OT) (5)

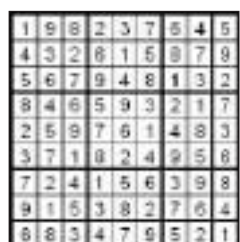
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Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No123

ACROSS: 1 Jalousy 4 Bremen 10 Sackcloth 11 Valet 12 Padlock 13 Quondam 14 Atmospheric 16 Exchange ideas 21 Fixated 22 Felucca 24 Humph 25 Weathered 26 Natant 27 Antler. **DOWN:** 1 Joseph 2 Lucid 3 Piccolo 5 Ravioli 6 Melodrama 7 No time 8 Look up and down 9 Chequered flag 15 Tax-exempt 17 Hitchin 18 Dolphin 19 Afghan 20 Zander 23 Coral.

QUICK SOLUTION No124

ACROSS: 1 Maker 4 Wavering 8 Guy 20 Sexton 22 April 23 Neom 25 Guide dog 16 Age group 17 Post 19 Beastly 6 Rhinitis 7 Nowhere 9 Wake up 5 Visceral 15 Keystroke 3 Reason 4 Wake up 5 Visceral 27 Wingspan 27 Ready. **DOWN:** 1 Muggins 2 Synod 24 Guerrilla 25 Food for thought 26 Slow 13 Kamikaze 17 Prejudice 18 Curb 22 16 Fakes Night 10 Introduce 11 Lament 12

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Tenerife is your paradise found

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

TENERIFE is known as a tourist hot spot sullied by over-development and bad behaviour by visitors.

The island, however, wants a new reputation to lure discerning travellers to its sun-kissed shores.

The largest of the Canary Islands off the coast of north-west Africa, this Spanish isle has a temperate climate year round, rivalling destinations like Dubai and The Gambia for weather, with shorter flights from Britain.

A smattering of exclusive hotels is emerging on the west coast, far from the all-night partying of Playa de las Americas and neighbouring Los Cristianos, where apartments go so far inland they swamp the surrounding hills.

Away from all that is the five-star Sensatori Resort on the outskirts of the village of Alcala, further up the coast, around 10 minutes' drive from the dramatic cliffs of Los Gigantes in the west.

It's here that I discovered a true taste of paradise, taking in the stunning 260m infinity pool, the largest in Europe, the shimmering Atlantic and the neighbouring island of La Gomera.

At Sensatori, the stunning rooms, marble flooring, sparkling chandeliers, fountains, designer decor and dramatic sculptures can take your breath away.

Bag a villa in its Red Level area and you get a butler and private pool within your tropical garden, and an outdoor double bed under a thatched canopy.

At the Sensatori's Michelin-starred Calima restaurant, where chef Dani Garcia is a bit of a celebrity, our 12-course taster menu began with delicious dry-ice cocktails and included delicacies such as foie gras, oysters and truffle cake, accompanied by fine wines, some produced locally.

But it's not only the hotels that are falling over backwards to spruce up this island.

Last year, Siam Park, a water park, opened in the south, boasting the biggest artificial waves in the world at nearly 10ft high. Its surrounding beach is created with tons of silky white sand imported from Portugal.

We hired a private cabana within the park, with its own balcony overlooking the wave pool, to allow us the luxury of a safe TV, DVD and Wi-Fi connection, plus mini-bar, comfortable loungers and an outside shower. If you want a similar package for four, including entrance, fast-track queuing and limited all-inclusive deal in restaurants and bars, it costs a cool 400 euros (£360).

Ecological measures are also being stepped up to save what is left of Tenerife's natural beauty.

Nearly a decade ago, virtually anyone could – and did – take a boat from Los Cristianos to watch whales and dolphins. Many



LAP OF LUXURY: Enjoy some sun-kissed serenity at the Sensatori Resort near Alcala

beautiful creatures were surrounded by boats, with tourists happily snapping away.

Under new rules, boats must be licensed and are carefully monitored to stop whales and dolphins from becoming distressed. The marine guide on our charter said that this had driven away unscrupulous operators and

improved the whales' breeding cycles.

Tenerife is still home to all-night party-goers, English pubs and bacon-and-eggs breakfasts after a heavy night.

But if all you want is peace, quiet and serenity in the ultimate tropical setting all year, it may be closer than you ever imagined.

FACT FILE: TENERIFE

Time difference	0 hours (GMT)
Language	Spanish
Capital	Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Population	900,000
Currency	Euro
Religion	Catholic

Travel Facts

Hannah Stephenson was a guest of Thomson Holidays, which offers seven nights' full board at five-star Sensatori Tenerife in 2010 from £758 per adult (two sharing), including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers and fuel supplement.

Thomson also goes to Tenerife via Luton, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle and Bristol.

Thomson reservations: 0871 236 5596 and www.thomson.co.uk.

Freebird One organises tailor-made private charters to watch whales and dolphins. See www.freebirdone.com for more details.



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PROPERTY NEWS



SUCCESS: Hillreed has sold nearly all its properties

Off-plan property sales are through the roof

THERE is nothing a builder likes more than to sell a home before it's actually built, and that's exactly what Hillreed is currently enjoying at Greenway, Kings Hill, near Maidstone.

Dean Markall, sales and marketing director at Hillreed, said: "Such is the desire to purchase property, most of the homes in our 'Farmyard complex' at Greenway, are reserved or sold and that is before we have even got the roofs on."

"Buying off plan enables astute buyers to hold the prices at 2009 levels which make financial sense."

"The building societies are still reporting house prices rising month on month, albeit slowly over November, but nevertheless they are on an upward trajectory. We anticipate a healthy market in 2010 which is great news for those who have already invested in bricks and mortar."

Kent to get extra help to prevent repossessions

A KENT MP has welcomed news of extra government help for those facing repossession.

South Thanet Labour member Dr Steve Ladyman said he was pleased about the extra help to tackle house repossession in Thanet.

John Healey, minister for housing said Thanet is among 56 repossession hot spot areas in the UK being targeted for extra help.

Dr Ladyman said: "I am delighted the minister has recognised the need for extra help for Thanet. Thousands of people have already been helped by the Government at this difficult time but there are still people in Thanet having trouble keeping up the mortgage and good, independent advice is vital for them."

Others areas in Kent to benefit are Dartford, Gravesham and Medway.

Nearly 88,000 people have gone to www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp since its launch in September, over 26,000 of whom have used it to develop personal action plans tailored to their individual circumstances.



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THE FRENCH IDYLL: For many British people the typical rustic French farmhouse remains at the top of their list when they are looking to invest or live in a home abroad



What you should know about buying abroad

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

KENT'S potential investors in overseas properties will do well to check out homes in France and Italy this year as two of the most stable markets.

The National Association of Estate Agents International said that, as always, any potential profits to be made will be down to the strength of sterling.

It said purchasers should look at what it called 'less risky' investments and in particular towards the more stable markets such as France and Italy.

But for the very best bargains, buyers should try Spain or Turkey, where the former has seen spectacular falls in property prices during the past 18 months.

But the association predicts prices will remain stable in the first quarter of 2010, so purchasers should consider making cash offers by March to secure a bargain in any of these countries.

And experts predict the balance of supply and demand will stabilise once house prices pick up and the pound strengthens against the euro.

Linda Travella, spokeswoman on Italy at NAEA International said: "After a slow start to the year, the last quarter of 2009 saw sales and interest returning to the international market, with Italy being considered a safer investment than many other markets around the world."

"As always, the strength of the pound will

have a significant bearing on the quality and quantity of sales, and this year it looks to stay at the same strength."

"Even though the UK appears to have fallen behind other economies in the race out of recession and economic recovery, sterling has held pretty firm against the single European currency, trading two to three cents either side of 1.10 during the second half of last year."

"For the first quarter of 2010 the number of international buyers is expected to remain low and therefore offers are more likely to be accepted making it a very good time to purchase an overseas property."

"However by late spring, property prices are expected to increase by three to five per cent. Key areas to invest in include Tuscany, Le Marche and the Lakes of Maggiore and Garda, where good deals can be found if you buy sensibly."

And Des Rowson, spokesman on Spain, added: "It has seen a difficult 12 months on the sales front as buyers have been particularly reticent about purchasing during an economic downturn."

"Bargains are available but remember, price reflects position and quality. Unfortunately the coming year will not change too much until we see the pound strengthening and clients accepting that the registered agents do know what purchasers are prepared to pay."

Top 10 tips for buying abroad from www.mortgages.co.uk

- Never sign a contract that you do not understand (for example - if it is in a foreign language).
- Seek specialist advice from independent solicitors, architects and surveyors who know the country's laws.
- Ensure you do not inherit a debt on the property before you purchase, which a solicitor should be able to check - some developers borrow money against the plot to raise finance.
- Always give yourself a 'cooling off' period if you see a 'must-have property' and are tempted to put down a deposit.
- If you are arranging finance on the property, ensure in any contract and you have an 'opt-out clause' if a loan is not agreed.
- Try to arrange your mortgage finance 'in principle', before agreeing to purchase the property or pay a deposit.
- Arrange your mortgage in the currency that you earn in where possible, unless you'll receive rental in local currency.
- Think about combining your cash with friends or family: it could bring a villa with pool within your financial reach.
- Check with the estate agent or vendor that you are aware of the costs charged by the legal and government authorities for purchasing a property. Remember that bills do not end at the asking price
- Open a bank account in your chosen country and ensure you get a Certificate of Importation for the money you bring in from your home country. Set up standing orders in a local bank account to meet bills and taxes. Failure in some countries will land you in court.

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• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• ATTIC / CELLAR

• ORIGINAL FEATURES
• EXPOSED BEAMS/SASH WINDOWS
• COURT YARD GARDEN
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

£275,000

REF: Prestige_60097S



Minster
• 3 BED DETACHED BUNGALOW
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• EDWARDIAN STYLE CONSERVATORY
• APPROX QUARTER ACRE PLOT

• ENSUITE TO MASTER
• BLOCK PAVED IN AND OUT DRIVEWAY
• IMMACULATE (IN OUR OPINION)
• TANDEM GARAGE

£350,000

REF: Prestige_60055S



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Chatham
• 3/4 BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE
• INTEGRAL APPLIANCES
• KITCHEN / DINER
• EN-SUITE MASTER BED



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• DRIVEWAY
• GATED ENTRANCE
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: 000000554



Chatham
• 2 BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
• LOUNGE
• DINER
• 2ND RECEPTION ROOM



£170,000
• DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• BATHROOM WITH SEP SHOWER CUBICLE
• PARKING TO FRONT
REF: Walderslade 601435



Mierscourt Road TO LET £895pcm
• 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
• LOUNGE / DINER / UTILITY AREA
• FAMILY BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
• GARDEN & GARAGE EN-BLOC
REF: inst-307



Rainham
• 3 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
• KITCHEN-DINER
• PLANNING TO EXTEND TO THE SIDE
• DOUBLE GLAZING



OIEO £165,000
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING
• OFF ROAD PARKING
• NO CHAIN
• MUST BE SEEN
REF: Rainham 615975



Strood
• 4 BEDROOM SEMI DET HOME
• LOUNGE / DINER
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM



£260,000
• UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
• CUL-DE SAC POSITION
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• DETACHED GARAGE
REF: Walderslade 601105



Milner Road TO LET £995pcm
• 4 BED TERRACED PROPERTY
• KITCHEN / LOUNGE
• BATHROOM & SEP SHOWER
• IDEAL FOR STUDENTS
REF: inst-331



Rainham
• SEMI DETACHED HOME
• 4 BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE
• KITCHEN / DINER



Guide price of £215,000 £235,000
• STUDY
• DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• GARAGE AND DRIVE
• MUST BE SEEN
REF: Rainham 601475



Chatham
• 1 BEDROOM HOUSE
• BACK TO BACK
• CLOSE TO MAIN TOWN
• DOUBLE GLAZED



£112,000
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING
• CUL-DE SAC POSITION
• NO FORWARD CHAIN
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade 599475



Bellgrove Court TO LET £1,100pcm
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
• "L" SHAPED LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
• OFF ROAD PARKING / GARAGE EN-BLOC
• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: inst-335



Sittingbourne
• LINK DETACHED HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CLOAKROOM



Guide Price 209,995 - £213,995
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER BED
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
• CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
• DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
REF: Rainham 611315



Chatham
• 2 BEDROOM HOME
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
• UPSTAIRS BATHROOM



£107,000
• IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER
• CLOSE TO TOWN
• BEING SOLD WITH NO CHAIN
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade 601855



Wormshill TO LET £695pcm
• 1 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
• LOUNGE / DINING ROOM / FITTED KITCHEN
• EASY TO MAINTAIN GARDEN
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
REF: inst-299



Chatham
• TERRACED HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• OLDER STYLE PROPERTY
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



£139,995
• LOUNGE
• DINING ROOM / KITCHEN
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• REAR GARDEN WITH FAR REACHING VIEWS
REF: Walderslade 601875



Wigmore
• CHALET BUNGALOW
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CONSERVATORY



£335,000
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
• UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
• GARAGE AND DRIVE TO REAR
• POPULAR LOCATION
REF: Rainham 601535



Broadway TO LET £695pcm
• 3 BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
• LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
• FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
• INTENAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: inst-337



Lordwood
• END OF TERRACE HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTIONS
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM



£170,000
• DOUBLE GLAZING
• GARAGE
• EXTENDED
• MUST BE SEEN
REF: Walderslade 607995



Gillingham
• SEMI DETACHED HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• LOUNGE



Guide Price £190,000 - £200,000
• KITCHEN / DINING AREA
• SHOWER ROOM
• GARAGE
• BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
REF: Rainham 606875



Heritage Road £850pcm
• 4 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE PROPERTY
• SPACIOUS LOUNGE / DINING AREA
• BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
• ALLOCATED PARKING TO FRONT
REF: inst-302



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Ashtree Court TO LET - FROM £925pcm
• 3 / 4 BEDROOM NEWLY BUILT TOWN HOUSE
• MODERN INTEGRATED KITCHEN
• DOUBLE GLAZED FRENCH DOORS TO GARDEN
• FAMILIAR BATHROOM & EN-SUITE TO MASTER BED
REF: inst-312



Rainham
• 1 BEDROOM FLAT
• SEPARATE KITCHEN
• FIRST FLOOR
• BUILT IN WARDROBES



£105,995
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• REFITTED SHOWER ROOM
• COMMUNAL GARDEN
• TELECOM ENTRY SYSTEM
REF: Rainham 60093S



Maidstone
• RETIREMENT FLAT
• 1 BEDROOM
• 1 BATHROOM
• WARDEN CONTROLLED



£84,500
• SECOND FLOOR
• LEASEHOLD
• CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade 60105S



Hamwick Green £625pcm
• 2 BED END OF TERRACE HOME
• LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINING AREA
• FURNISHED
• REAR GARDEN WITH FISH POND
REF: inst-292



Gillingham
• TERRACED HOME
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• EXTENDED LOUNGE DINER
• CONSERVATORY



Guide Price £170,000 - £185,000
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• GARAGE AND DRIVE
• GOOD SIZE GARDEN
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Rainham 60133S



CHATHAM
• 2 BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOME
• LOUNGE / DINER
• MODERN REFITTED KITCHEN
• WHITE FITTED BATHROOM SUITE



£130,000
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• REAR GARDEN
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAYS
REF: Walderslade 60001S



The Yard £650pcm
• 2 BEDROOM MID TERRACE PROPERTY
• KITCHEN / LOUNGE / DINER
• BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE
• OFF ROAD PARKING
REF: inst-300



Chatham
• SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
• 2 BEDROOMS
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM
• DRIVEWAY TO THE FRONT



£135,000
• EAST TO MAINTAIN REAR GARDEN
• POPULAR LOCATION
• NO CHAIN
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade 60175S



Frindsbury
• VICTORIAN HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• LARGE ENTRANCE HALL
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



£164,995
• POPULAR LOCATION
• WALKING DISTANCE OF TRAIN STATION
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAY LINKS
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade 60181S



Wildfell Close £625pcm
• 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
• FITTED KITCHEN / LOUNGE
• EASY TO MAINTAIN REAR GARDEN
• ALLOCATED PARKING
REF: inst-324



Lower Stoke
• END OF TERRACE
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN



£160,000
• NEWLY FITTED BATHROOM
• SEPARATE SHOWER CUBICLE
• DETACHED GARAGE AND DRIVE
• VILLAGE LOCATION
REF: Walderslade 60170S



Chatham
• SEMI DETACHED HOME
• 3 GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE / DINING ROOM
• CONSERVATORY



£189,995
• DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
• FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
• GARAGE TO REAR
• POPULAR LOCATION
REF: Walderslade 60484S



Saunders Street £550pcm
• 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
• FITTED KITCHEN & UTILITY AREA
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• REAR GARDEN
REF: inst-277



Rochester
• STAMP DUTY PAID
• 4 BEDROOM HOME
• EXTENDED LOUNGE / DINING AREA
• KITCHEN OVER LOOKING BLOCK PAVED DRIVE



£189,995
• MASTER BED WITH EN-SUITE
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• CLOAKROOM
• PARTIAL COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
REF: Walderslade 60156S



Gillingham
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
• GEORGIAN STYLE
• REFITTED KITCHEN
• LOUNGE



OIEO £375,000
• CONSERVATORY
• CLOAKROOM
• EN SUITE
• GARAGE AND DRIVE
REF: Rainham 61158S



Smith Street £550pcm
• 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
• FITTED KITCHEN
• LOUNGE / DINING AREA
• BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
REF: inst-304



Gillingham
• SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
• THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE / DINER
• KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM



Guide Price 220,000 £240,000
• ENSUITE & DRESSING AREA
• WELL ESTABLISHED GARDEN
• CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
• INTERNAL VIEWING IS A MUST
REF: Rainham 60151S



• END OF TERRACE PROPERTY
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE / DINER
• CLOAKROOM



£155,000
• LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• RIVERSIDE LOCATION
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAY LINKS
REF: Rainham 60839S

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- Good size garden. Farmland & orchard views to rear

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- Utility Room, Downstairs WC

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- Prime Location, Close to Town Centre
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- No Forward Chain

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Faversham | Price Range: £155,000-£170,000

- Three bed home close to town centre
- Two receptions, recently fitted kitchen
- Bathroom, enclosed rear garden

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Iwade | Price Range: £130,000-£142,000

- 2 Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- No Forward Chain
- Allocated Parking

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- Within a short distance of town centre

£170,000

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- Open plan lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- Three bedrooms and bathroom

£112,500

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Minster on Sea

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- Three Bedroom House, Two Receptions
- Double Glazing/Gas Fired Central Heating

£240,000

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Minster on Sea

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- Remodelled kitchen, two receptions
- Double glazing, central heating

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- Village Location. Two Receptions.
- Many Original Features.

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Sheerness

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- Two reception rooms, Conservatory
- Double glazing, Gas central heating

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Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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Iwade



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Sittingbourne



£210,000

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Iwade



£229,995

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Sittingbourne



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MOTORS NEWS



Black Edition marks 40 years on for 'Z' legend

NISSAN is celebrating 40 years of its legendary 'Z' sports car series with a Black Edition of the current standard bearer, the 370Z.

It is the latest in a line started by the then Datsun 240Z and still uses the classic rear-wheel drive layout preferred for sports cars. The Black Edition (from £33,645) is available to order now, in coupé form only, for April delivery.

It features unique red leather and suede interior with embossed 40th Anniversary logo seats and other premium features.



Sportage ready to step from RAV4's shadow

IF Kia's current Sportage is seen as a cut-price alternative to the increasingly expensive Toyota RAV4, its forthcoming replacement deserves recognition as a smart new model in its own right.

It is a fresh and sporty design blending the key features of a sports utility vehicle – commanding driving position and raised ground clearance.

The Korean marque says the new Sportage will arrive latter this year with a "highly competitive diesel and petrol engine line-up".



Skoda continues to help you save on a new buy

SKODA has extended its 'No-VAT' offer across all Octavia, Fabia and Roomster models, with a potential saving of up to £3,400. Instead of closing at the end of January, this deal continues with orders up to 31 March.

It means the popular Fabia supermini still costs from just £7,870 – saving up to £2,100 and including the eco-friendly Greenline (pictured) – while the award-winning Octavia range that played a major role in the marque's revival is available from just £10,526.



A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER: Mazda has opted for a lighter and lower design rather than premium-priced 'eco' models epitomised by their smart tax saving new-look Mazda3

Mazda's 'lighter and lower' philosophy is looking good

RATHER than opting for premium-price 'eco' models, Mazda has adopted a 'lighter and lower' design philosophy across its mainstream range.

The current Mazda2 supermini, Mazda6 family/Mondeo class car and now the Mazda3 family hatch have all had the 'treatment': better aerodynamics, weight-saving and reduced engine emissions and fuel consumption.

This has delivered range-wide tax and eco-savings exemplified by the latest Mazda3 (priced from £14,730) and particularly the tax-beating 1.6 TS2 five-door diesel tested here (£17,390).

It can average more than 60mpg – without needing a six-speed gearbox – and also incurs the lowest payable road tax of £35 a year.

And because a brand that markets itself with a 'Zoom-Zoom' label could not escape with anything less, it also handles well without detriment to the ride.

Where some diesel hatchbacks can feel lumpy compared with their petrol sisters, the inherent lightness of the '3' means the heftier diesel engine seems to make little difference to

ROAD TEST MAZDA3

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

the nimbleness of the car. So, with a typically crisp Mazda gearshift and direct steering plus a more than adequate 109bhp under the bonnet, this is a company or private buy that is easy to live with in all situations.

It cannot quite match the latest VW Golf for refinement, but is a more cost-effective option, to be judged more against the ubiquitous Ford Focus and latest Vauxhall Astra.

It looks leaner and more muscular than its rather frumpy predecessor and the cabin echoes the impressive Mazda6 in layout, style and quality, though rear legroom is only average for the sector.

Having driven most engines in the line-up now, test driving the well-equipped TS2 version of the 'cooking' diesel confirmed it as the 'go to' model for most buyers. By comparison, the 105bhp 1.6-litre petrol needs a lot of gearshifting to make progress, though still a rewarding drive.

For those who like the look of the '3', but crave more thrills, Mazda has also just launched the MPS hot hatch version (£21,500).

Arriving within months of the mainstream line-up this 257bhp turbocharged 2.3-litre petrol model can hit 62mph in just 6.1 seconds and wears a bodykit to complement its good looks.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S five-door city car shows that a highly space-efficient interior does not have to result in a utilitarian exterior. The compact Italian is also decent to drive, cheap to insure and costs peanuts to run. The original Panda of the 1980s was also cheap and cheerful, but didn't feature the cutting-edge technology and better build of its modern day counterpart. A lively turbodiesel – averaging more than 65mpg – and a rugged little 4x4 option only add to the Panda's attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 107



PEUGEOT'S smallest model is the best-seller of a joint venture three and five-door city car project that also spawned the Toyota Aygo and Citroën C1. All come from the same production line in the Czech Republic and, with minor styling tweaks, are modern, stylish, cheap to run and reliable. Launch prices were not as cheap as expected, but robust new car sales and second-hand values indicate that the public is willing to pay to save money and the planet.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MINI D



USED values for the frugal yet lively diesel version of BMW's reborn Mini are steep, but the rewards are worth it; the car drives well, oozes class, will save money while you run it and be worth more when you sell. The downside is a relatively cramped interior in comparison with its exterior – the antithesis of its all-British forebear – and rarity when buying. A late 'Mark II' petrol version with BMW's eco-friendly 'Efficient Dynamics' package is a possible alternative though.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Consultant for Minority Ethnic Achievement (Traveller Education) Ref: CA0973C

Salary: Soulbury points 10-12 £42,227 - £44,454 per annum
Hours: 37 per week Location: Children and Adults - learning and caring directorate, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

We are looking for a consultant with substantial and proven successful teaching and management experience in school for 19 April 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, to be responsible for Minority Ethnic Achievement, and in particular for Traveller Education. The postholder will:

- provide training and school based consultancy to Medway primary and secondary schools to raise standards of teaching and learning and attainment for vulnerable pupils with a focus on minority ethnic pupils and in particular Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils.
- assist in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress and impact of provisions for vulnerable pupils in particular, GRT pupils in Medway schools.
- contribute to the raising of standards and improving inclusion of vulnerable pupils in Medway schools through training, challenge and support, and advice as required.

The postholder will be part of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Team and work alongside colleagues in the School Improvement Team. We welcome applications from the Traveller Community.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced criminal records bureau disclosure.

For an informal discussion phone Amy Thompson on 01634 338543

Closing date for application: Monday, 1 March.

Short listing date: Friday, 5 March. Interviews: Friday, 12 March.

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone. Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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Candidates must have CIPD qualifications and experience of working within Human Resources in a complex organisation. An education background would be an advantage.

Interested?

then download further information and an application form from our websites

We look forward to hearing from you.

The closing date posts is: Friday 19th February 2010

Enquiries or visits are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Spooner, HR Manager The Marlowe Academy, on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

The Academies are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicants will have to undertake Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB.

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Please apply in writing for an application pack, via email to:
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 Visits to the school are encouraged
 Closing date: Friday 19th February 2010
 Interviews to be held Thursday 25th February 2010

Ursuline College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff/ volunteers to share this commitment.

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You will be fully qualified and experienced with a good working knowledge of your trade. You may have previous supervisory experience or be seeking to progress in your career. You will be organised, efficient with good communication skills and the ability to get the best out of your team. Previous training experience would be an advantage but is not essential as training will be given. If this sounds like the sort of role that you would enjoy and be good at, then we would like to talk to you.

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If the challenge of these roles appeals to you: call Ken Pullan on 07725128661 for an informal discussion and/or forward a copy of your CV in the first instance to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk
Full details of these and other vacancies are available on www.midkent.ac.uk
(follow Careers then RSME vacancies)

Closing date: 26th February 2010

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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Administrator - 20 hrs per week

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend, we are partly funded by Social Services.

Project Worker: We are looking for a confident, versatile, sensitive and articulate person who will raise the profile of Carers. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre. You will also liaise with other agencies, make and take referrals, facilitate, develop and organise support groups and events.

Administrator: We are looking for a methodical, organised and experienced person who can demonstrate excellent computer skills and the ability to undertake all aspects of office administration, to support the efficient running and development of this busy organisation.

Both of these positions are mainly office based, however, you may be required to travel outside the office to attend meetings, etc. A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

For an application pack please write to
Mel Perkins, Operations Manager, 10 Victoria Road,
Deal, Kent CT14 7AP or email: mel@carers-doverdistrict.org

Closing date: Monday 1st March 2010.
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The ideal applicant will have worked nights on London Underground in a similar role. Applicants must have the flexibility to also work days and weekends. The main duties will include overseeing Site Managers and Supervisors, monitoring site progress/productivity, client liaison and troubleshooting.

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40 hours per week - Monday to Friday - Competitive Salary

The ideal applicant will have produced method statements and associated documentation for minor construction/civils works on London Underground. The applicant must have excellent computer skills, a good standard of written English and the ability to produce clear and concise documents.

If you are interested in applying for the above vacancies please submit your curriculum vitae with covering letter to Karen O'Brien - Human Resources Manager.
 Livis Limited Livis House, 50 Victoria Park, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5AJ
 Tel: 01322 220058 Fax: 01322 292015 Email: hr@livis.co.uk

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Administrator

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For all of the above positions please respond in writing to: **WHITEHOUSE**
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315-321 BROADWAY, BEXLEYHEATH
KENT DA6 8DT 020 8304 8198 or email:
trevor.howard@whitehousegroup.co.uk

Closing date: 12th Feb 2010

Visit Kent

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.



Finance Coordinator

(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France, The Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus of the role will be the preparation of monthly management accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa projects, monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels. Experience in a financial environment and with European projects preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although **candidates actively studying will be considered.**

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

Visit **www.visitkent.co.uk** for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.

This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the District and Borough Councils, Tourism South East and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.



Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
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Spire Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow.

There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Further details and an application form are available from Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spireacademy.com or ring 01227 710392, for an information pack.

Closing date: 12.00 noon, Friday 26th February 2010

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Walmer Science College is a vibrant community school for students 11-19 catering for 800 students of all abilities. We also have a Dyslexia Unit, which is able to offer up to four places in each year group for students in the local area. The Dyslexia Unit is housed in purpose built accommodation which was completed in 2006. Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Head of Dyslexia Department

Mainscale plus TLR 2B - £2,478 AND SEN

Responsibility Payment - £1,956

Required for 1st September 2010

The successful applicant will have experience of supporting students with dyslexia within mainstream lessons and teaching students with dyslexia of secondary school age literacy skills. Having undergone training in dyslexia, you will hold an appropriate qualification, be computer literate and have experience of line management whilst providing CPD sessions for staff.

You will have excellent communication, negotiation, organisational and interpersonal skills with a vision for the future development of the unit, incorporating its role as the Lead School for Dyslexia in the area, which will involve outreach provision.

It would be desirable if you have undergone training in Speech and Language Disorders or are willing to undertake such training.

Application forms and further details are available from the school.

Closing date: 9:30am on Friday, 12th February 2010.

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. Only applications submitted via the official application form will be considered.

T: 01304 375212 F: 01304 380766

E: admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk

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Proposed development at Milton Creek, Sittingbourne, Kent.

I give notice that Swale Borough Council is applying to Swale Borough Council for planning permission for improvements to the accessibility of the Saxon Shorne Way and creation of a series of interpretation points, with decking, seating walls, signage and planting which are sited at the four historic wharves along the Creek. Biodiversity and landscape improvements to the corridor of the Sittingbourne to Kemsley Light Railway. It also includes an application for a Change of Use of parts of the adjacent land (landfill sites and land on the margins of the existing Church Marshes Country Park) to 'Country Park'.

Any owner of the land who wishes to make representations about this application should write to Swale Borough Council Planning Department at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT by 25 February 2010



Marketing Assistant

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

Marketing Assistant

This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including PR, online, briefing agencies, printers, and different house, the production of a range of marketing material and the analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will have a marketing background with experience of working in the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in French.

Salary £17,000 - £20,000

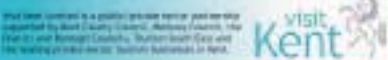
Visit **www.visitkent.co.uk** for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.

Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.

This advertisement first appeared on 6th February 2010.



Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB
www.marloweacademy.co.uk

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Starting 1st July 2010 in both Mathematics and English Salary: £15,817

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Candidates must have a degree in a related subject, have left university for a least a year before commencing training, and have some experience of working with children.

Interested?

Then download further information and an application form from our website or contact the school.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Spooner, HR Manager, on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

The Marlowe Academy is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicants will have to undertake Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB.

The closing date for both posts is: Friday 19th February 2010



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GRIPPING: John Clarke (in blue) defeats Roger Griffiths

Clarke's hands on approach wins inaugural title

IN A clash of the martial arts, judo coach John Clarke overcame kick-boxing specialist Roger Griffiths to win the inaugural Warriors Grappling Academy Club Championships.

Having finally secured insurance to host the event, the British CombatSombo Association gave Swale Martial Arts Club the go-ahead and Clarke's dynamic throwing was the key to his success.

Griffiths, having moved from South Africa to join the British Army, had given Clarke a bloody nose in training, but the fight swung the way of Clarke, who managed to get in

MARTIAL ARTS

close to negate Griffiths' powerful kicks.

However, Griffiths switched tactics and twice threw Clarke to open up an eight-point lead – the largest deficit the Englishman had faced for more than two years.

Composing himself, Clarke produced a four-point throw of his own and then finished the contest with an arm lock to take the title.

Griffiths now leaves the sport to pursue his army career, while Clarke must defend

his crown against a new opponent when the championships are next contested.

CombatSombo is an extension of the Russian jacket wrestling sport, sombo wrestling, although only strikes to the safety helmet are allowed, with strikes to the head not permitted while on the floor.

The youth final was contested by 14-year-old Ben Franks and 16-year-old Ashley Jordan who both came out kicking and punching bravely.

Franks produced an early throw to edge ahead, but Jordan's craft saw him win the competition courtesy of an arm lock.

RUGBY

Picture DAVE HICKS



GAUNT-LET: Dean Gaunt scoring for the hosts

Bourne run tough Teddington close

Sittingbourne 24 Teddington 28

SITTINGBOURNE slipped out of the Junior Vase at home to Teddington at the weekend, but there are plenty of positives to take into Saturday's crucial league game.

Guy's Hospital are among the sides fighting for the play-off spot in Kent 1 and they arrive at The Grove just a point behind Bourne, having played a game more.

Teddington, top of Surrey 1 and boasting a 100 per cent record this season, provided a tough physical challenge for Bourne, but the hosts matched them and went into half-time trailing 15-14.

Dean Gaunt and Roo Nanson both touched down for the hosts in the first-half, but Bourne were dealt a blow when captain Scott Truss left the field with a pulled hamstring. However, Bourne stayed positive and Mat Fender scored twice to give them a platform for victory, but missed kicks at goal and poor defending ultimately cost them the tie.

Vice-captain Chris Nutley said: "It was a very good game – Teddington are unbeaten in their league, but we're going well too. We missed six points kicking for goal so we had our chances to win it."

"They were probably even better than we expected; they were very well-drilled and they had big, strong ball-carriers. We gave away a couple of soft tries, but we used our set-pieces well."

"They've got a few semi-professionals in their side and they said we were the toughest side they'd played for two or three seasons which was nice to hear."

Truss is expected to return for Saturday's game, which will see Bourne attempt to extend their unbeaten league run to five games.

Guy's have won five on the bounce and their last defeat came at the hands of Sittingbourne, when the Swale outfit ran out 45-30 winners in November.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture KEN MEDWIN

SHOW STOPPER: Horsham's goalkeeper Tony Di Binardo (yellow) pulls off another heroic save to deny Sittingbourne a goal during Saturday's scoreless encounter at Bourne Park

Rampant Brickies halted by brilliance of Di Binardo

FOR the first time in six outings, Sittingbourne failed to score as they came up against a visiting goalkeeper in inspired form at Bourne Park.

Horsham YMCA's Canadian stopper Tony Di Binardo pulled off a string of fantastic saves to thwart the Brickies, who failed to reproduce the glittering display which saw them trounce Ramsgate 6-1 seven days earlier.

Sittingbourne manager Gary Abbott named the same side which started at Southwood, with 17-year-old Dartford loanee Karl Dent making his home debut in midfield.

Hicham Akhazzan was the first to test Di Binardo in the seventh minute, although the Brickies' Deren Ibrahim also had to be alert as Tom Lawley's cross-shot threatened to sneak inside the post.

Following his scorching long-range strike at Ramsgate, defender Nick Reeves was keen for more of the same and he thundered a 30-yard free-kick narrowly wide as Sittingbourne began to assert themselves.

Tom Bradbrook was then inches from connecting with Jimmy Bottle's cross before Mike Hockett and Terry Dodd both saw snapshots fly across the face of the home goal.

FOOTBALL

■ BY STEVE TERTVET

Sittingbourne 0

Horsham YMCA 0



Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Kayembe (Bottle 72)

Twice Akhazzan was thwarted by last-ditch tackles as half-time approached and Bottle went closest to an opener when he struck the post in stoppage-time.

The pattern of home dominance continued after the break when Dent broke clear of the YMCA defence, only to be denied by a brilliant Di Binardo block.

Akhazzan, Dent and Billy Manners then all went close in the space of five minutes as the Brickies looked for a way past the stubborn visitors and substitute Elie Kayembe headed Reeves' long throw against the bar in the dying moments.

However, Horsham could have returned to West Sussex with all three points had Ibrahim not tipped Tom Manton's shot onto the post.

Abbott said: "We'd won our last five at home so it would have been nice to get the three points again, but the positives are we kept a clean sheet and extended our unbeaten run."

"We came into the game full of confidence after the result at Ramsgate and if it wasn't for their keeper it could have been the same score-line again."

"Saturday [at Croydon Athletic] is a massive game, but there's no pressure on us to win so we'll go there and be positive in our play."

Sittingbourne were in action last night as they traveled to Bromley in the Kent Senior Cup. Log on to www.yourswale.co.uk for match details.

Salters Lane six-shooters put paid to plucky Wells

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

Faversham Town 6

Shearer 43, Botterill 54, 76, Hamshare 61, Luchford 70, Hickman 78

Tunbridge Wells 2

Agana 5, Cornell 23



FAVERSHAM Town and Tunbridge Wells served up a goal feast at Salters Lane, but it was the league leaders that preserved their seven-point lead at the top.

They didn't have it all their way though, as Wells took a richly deserved 2-0 lead after 23 minutes, but Town are made of sterner stuff these days and made the visitors pay for their inability to defend set-pieces.

Some poor Faversham defending allowed Carl Cornell to ghost in at the back post before letting off a shot that goalkeeper Rob French did well to parry, but only into the path of Benji Agana who made no mistake from close range to give Wells the lead on five minutes.

Damian Abel fashioned two chances for himself that were well saved by Wells goalkeeper Michael Czanner, before the visitors – with midfielder Andy McMath pulling the strings from the centre – extended their lead



Faversham Town starting XI



Subs used: Sinden (Abel 75), Smissen (Collier 80)

BACK OF THE NET: Dave Botterill scores Town's equaliser

on 23 minutes. An innocent looking ball was played into the Faversham area, but wasn't dealt with, allowing Cornell to nip in to score.

That led to some sustained Faversham pressure and although the corner count reached double figures, Wells' desperate defending and goal line clearances kept them at bay.

The home side managed to put one away two minutes before the break when Lee Shearer scored his ninth of the season from a Jack Tanner corner.

As poor as they were in the first-half, Town were equally as good in the second as they seized the initiative and wore their opponents down with well rehearsed set-piece routines.

The sides were level ten minutes into the second-half when Dave Botterill headed Dane Luchford's corner in and the writing was on the wall for the visitors when on the hour mark, Shearer's volley was helped on its way

to the top corner by Shane Hamshare.

Luchford then got on the score sheet on 70 minutes, seizing on some poor defending from a Larkin corner, and six minutes later Botterill slammed home his second from the edge of the box after another Luchford corner was played out to the former Chatham midfielder.

The scoring was complete with 12 minutes left when a Luchford cross was flicked past Czanner by Town skipper Tom Hickman.

Boss Justin Luchford, whose side were at Deal Town last night, felt his side's quality eventually shone through after a poor start to the game.

"I keep hearing that we're all long ball, but there was some great football at times out there and we opened them up," he said.

"I was big time worried at 2-0, but getting that goal before half-time helped and I knew they would cave in at some point as they made enough errors in the first-half."

For a report and reaction from last night's game at Deal, visit www.yoursware.co.uk.

HOCKEY

Court let two-goal lead slip to open up intriguing title race

Barnes 3 Gore Court 3

THE battle for promotion from South Hockey Premier Division Two is now a five-horse race after Gore Court let a two-goal lead slip at leaders Barnes on Saturday.

L o n d o n

Wayfarers and Eastbourne are within reach of the leading pack, with third-placed Wycombe set to welcome Court in a mouth-watering clash this weekend.

Court struggled to adjust to Barnes's water-based pitch on Saturday and their uncertainty allowed the leaders to steal ahead with a fine goal.

Their lead was cancelled out almost immediately, however, when fine play from top scorer Aaron Glass set up Simon Shobbrook to fire the ball into the net.

The visitors were now into their stride and Glass converted a short corner with a great flick to put Court 2-1 ahead going into half-time.

Their dominance continued after the break and when Doug Reed was fouled in the circle, Court felt they had a decent claim for a penalty. From the resulting short corner, though, Glass hit his second of the day to put Court 3-1 in front and take his season's tally to 31 from 14 games.

The game was to turn on its head soon after, however, when Glass turned from hero to villain as he was sin-binned for a foul tackle.

Barnes started to apply the pressure and pushed Court onto the back foot for 20 minutes. The visitors' defence cracked twice as Barnes drew level and although both teams had chances late on, a point apiece was deemed a fair outcome.

Court travel to Buckinghamshire two points ahead of Wycombe, but having played two games more and they know a defeat would be costly as they bid to keep the pressure on Barnes.

Court's ladies were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Letchworth in East Hockey Division One South, leaving them a point behind the Hertfordshire outfit.



ON A ROLL: Aaron Glass hit two during Gore Court's draw

LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	24	17	5	2	+20	56
2 Croydon Athletic	24	14	6	4	+28	48
3 Fleet Town	25	15	3	7	+21	48
4 Worthing	25	14	3	8	+14	45
5 Godalming Town	22	13	3	6	+15	42
6 Walton & Hersham	25	12	5	8	+6	41
7 Dulwich Hamlet	26	9	10	7	+5	37
8 Burgess Hill Town	24	10	6	8	+4	36
9 Chatham Town	27	11	3	13	-10	36
10 Sittingbourne	22	10	5	7	+14	35
11 Horsham YMCA	27	8	11	8	+5	35
12 Ramsgate	24	9	7	8	0	34
13 Corinthian-Casuals	25	10	3	12	-7	33
14 Merstham	25	9	6	10	-8	33
15 Leatherhead	22	9	3	10	+8	30
16 Whyteleafe	24	9	3	12	+2	30
17 Metropolitan Police	23	7	7	9	+4	28
18 Walton Casuals	25	6	6	13	-11	24
19 Chipstead	26	6	6	14	-14	24
20 Whitstable Town	24	6	2	16	-33	20
21 Eastbourne Town	26	3	9	14	-29	18
22 Ashford Town	23	2	8	13	-34	14

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Faversham Town	17	13	2	2	+30	41
2 Herne Bay	15	11	1	3	+16	34
3 Erith & Belvedere	17	9	2	6	+3	29
4 Hythe Town	14	8	4	2	+25	28
5 Erith Town	14	7	3	4	+8	24
6 Beckenham Town	16	7	3	6	+8	24
7 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	+6	24
8 Greenwich Borough	16	6	5	5	0	23
9 Deal Town	14	6	4	4	-2	22
10 Tunbridge Wells	18	5	7	6	-5	22
11 Sporting Bengal	19	5	4	10	-22	19
12 Norton Sports	14	5	1	8	-5	16
13 Holmesdale	16	4	2	10	-7	14
14 Corinthian	16	3	3	10	-16	12
15 Fisher	18	3	3	12	-21	12
16 Lordswood	14	1	5	8	-18	8

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman South – Croydon Athletic v Sittingbourne; Kent League Premier Division – Faversham Town v Erith & Belvedere; Norton Sports v Tunbridge Wells

Norton comeback all to no avail as Town grab winner

FOOTBALL

Erith Town 3 Norton Sports 2

HAVING overturned a two-goal deficit to go in at half-time all square, Norton Sports were unable to take anything away from their trip to Erith Town.

In a mistake-ridden game, Erith started the stronger and Norton had difficulty in coping with their quick movement up front.

The few half-chances which the hosts created were wasted and Norton could have taken the lead midway through the half when Ashley Baverstock broke clear, but the goalkeeper blocked his tame effort.

Moments later Norton were made to pay when a weak header from John Emmerson fell to Erith's Lee Coburn eight yards out and he easily converted. Norton were on the back foot and five minutes later a mis-timed challenge from Lewis Rivett set up Harry Montgomery to make it 2-0.

To their credit, the visitors dug in and ten minutes before the break player-manager Ben Taylor headed a free-kick back into the box and Baverstock volleyed home. Then, in first-half stoppage-time, Baverstock's cross-shot found the far corner to bring the sides level.

The winning goal arrived four minutes into the second-half when the ball rebounded off the Norton bar and Tom Hopkins pounced to score from close range.

Norton play their first home league game since October when Tunbridge Wells visit Winch's Field on Saturday. Wells hold a six-point lead over Norton, but have played four games more.



TOUGH: Norton lost out at Erith at the weekend

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